

Israel sees beginning of an end to occupation

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel is predicting that an impending agreement to spread Palestinian self-rule across the West Bank will signal the end of occupation of Palestinian territories.

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA), with barely a foothold on the West Bank and control of just two-thirds of the Gaza Strip, may begin to differ.

But senior Israeli ministers believe such optimism is not premature. 28 years after the capture of the territories and east Jerusalem.

"It's the beginning of the end not only of occupation but also of the idea of eretz (greater) Israel," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told reporters.

"This government is determined to change the rules of the game which have been in force since the 1967 war."

The PLO and Israel have set a July 25 deadline to wrap up the deal to redeploy troops outside Palestinian areas, hand over civilian powers to the authority and hold autonomy elections, and will hold negotiations this week.

"The agreement means the era of occupation is over," said Housing Minister Shimon Ben Eliezer, a former West Bank army commander.

In a first phase of redeployment, Israeli forces are to quit the towns of Kalkiya, Jenin, Nablus and Tulkarim. The entire pull-back is due to be completed by mid-1997 in the Israeli project.

"Once you leave these cities there is no going back. It's over," Mr. Ben Eliezer said.

"We should not be afraid of a Palestinian state alongside Israel, on condition that it is based on the principle of peaceful coexistence."

"If we succeed it will be a historic change. If we fail we will pay heavily."

Nonetheless, Mr. Peres reportedly warned the cabinet that the Palestinians were likely to be disappointed, as Israel plans to give them control over only 18 per cent of the West Bank.

In another indication of the ambiguity of the time, an Israeli minister who is traditionally considered a moderate urged the government to annex de facto parts of the West Bank.

"We must immediately spread Israeli legislation to the zones which in any event will remain under our control," Justice Minister David Libai said.

He gave the example of Maale Adumim, the biggest Jewish settlement with a population of some 20,000, which is about 10 kilometres from Jerusalem on the road to Jericho.

It lies in the West Bank belt which the government calls greater Jerusalem and has no intention of ceding to the Palestinians.

According to the Jerusalem Post, Mr. Libai was giving public voice to what Mr. Rabin told his parliamentary Labour Party behind closed doors last week.

He said he did not want Palestinian police in the Jerusalem area, the Jordan Valley and along the West Bank borders.

Mr. Rabin wants to hold on to those regions as part of a final accord with the Palestinians, who he intends to offer an "entity", short of a full state.

"We do not intend to return to the green line of 1967," Mr. Rabin admitted in an interview published in the Davar newspaper on Friday.

That would calm the 130,000 Jewish settlers who are concentrated in those areas and campaigning vigorously to block redeployment.

The government is taking seriously threats from extremists to take up arms against the evacuation of any settlements and is also concerned about morale in the army if it is asked to tackle a hard core of settlers.

Final status negotiations on the territories, including Jerusalem, settlements and refugees, are set to start by May 1996.

Israel and the PLO remain far apart in the complex negotiations.

Negotiators are grappling with a mass of detail to enable an army withdrawal from Arab population areas, autonomy elections and a transfer of civilian powers.

Senior Israeli sources, who refused to be named, summed up the differences:

REDEPLOYMENT: The PLO wants take over all the West Bank, except settlements and access roads, before elections. Joint patrols based on the Gaza experience in some areas.

Israel ready to cede control only over major towns with some areas under joint security.

TIMETABLE: Palestinians want precise dates for redeployment from all towns, including Hebron, and villages before elections are held.

Israel refuses to set dates and wants a first stage redeployment before elections with a second, post-election stage to depend on the success of the first.

ELECTIONS: Palestinians refuse to hold elections in the presence of Israeli troops. They want Jerusalem residents to be allowed to run for office as well as vote for the autonomy council which should have 75 members.

The ballot should be held 25 weeks after the signing of the accord.

Israel wants to keep troops in Hebron and parts of Ramallah and Bethlehem as well as maintain control over Arab villages. The council

should have only 35 members. Accord for 700 international observers.

PRISONERS: Palestinians want earliest release of prisoners as a confidence-building measure with a gradual release for all the rest.

Israel is ready to free 2,500 prisoners in two phases, before and after the elections. Convicted killers and common law criminals to stay in jail.

Despite the differences, the July 25 deadline was set after the two sides reached an "understanding" Tuesday on the principles of agreement. They are to resume negotiations this week.

Palestinian negotiator General Abdul Razeq Yahiya, who heads a security committee negotiating redeployment with Israeli General Uzi Dayan, confirmed Israeli reports of some details to Friday's Jerusalem Post.

The West Bank will be divided into four zones:

Zone A: Jenin, Nablus, Kalkiya and Tulkarim to be ceded to PLO immediately.

Zone B: Bethlehem, Hebron and Ramallah, villages and some roads where control will be shared.

Palestinians will run public affairs and maintain order but Israel will have "over-riding security responsibility."

As bypass roads are built the PLO will gradually take greater control.

Zone C: Israeli security control over uninhabited areas where the Palestinians will have civilian authority.

Zone D: Sole Israeli control over settlements and army bases.

In Cairo, talks are taking place for the handover to the Palestinians of control over remaining sectors, including agriculture, electricity, gas, petrol, insurance, municipal affairs, postal services, statistics, telecommunications, and water.

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VICTIMISED: Relatives of the two teenagers killed Saturday in Israeli shelling of Nabatiyah in South Lebanon cry during their funeral. The two girls aged 16 and 17 were killed in the

convent area of the town, while their three brothers were injured when an Israeli shell destroyed part of their house (see page one) (AFP photo)

Bahraini teenager reportedly dies in jail

NICOSIA (R) — A Bahraini teenager has died 10 days after he was arrested, and taken to a hospital in the first such death since anti-government protests died down in April, residents said on Sunday.

They said Said Abdul Rasool Eskafy, 15, was arrested in Sanabis, five kilometres west of the capital Manama, one of a string of Shi'ite Muslim villages close to the capital that were the scene of four months of anti-government protests.

Eskafy was buried in nearby Naeem district on Saturday, they added but gave no further details. There has so far been no official word on Eskafy's arrest or the cause of death.

Bahrain on Sunday said it had released 100-150 detainees and said the authorities were "anxious for a quick release of all detainees."

The release followed recent court verdicts sentencing a Bahraini to "death" while eight others were given prison terms for killing police

Sergeant Ibrahim Rashid Abdul Karim Al Saidi in March.

Anti-government protests erupted among Bahrain's large Shi'ite community on Dec. 5. The protesters demanded the release of political prisoners and the restoration of a parliament dissolved in 1975.

At least 12 civilians and three policemen were killed and hundreds arrested in the four months of unrest.

The interior ministry announced the release of 120 prisoners on April 17 after a similar inquiry into the bloody rioting which began following the arrest of a Shi'ite dignitary, Sheikh Ali Salman, now a refugee in Britain.

Amnesty International said on March 29 it had the names of 700 people arrested in connection with the violence, but the human rights group estimated that there were many more in custody.

The Bahraini opposition in exile has put the number of arrests at 3,000.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait bans movie that allegedly insults Islam

KUWAIT (AP) — The Information Ministry Saturday banned an Indian movie that allegedly insults Islam and ordered an investigation on how it was allowed to be screened in theatres. Scores of Kuwaitis, mostly fundamentalist Muslims, had demonstrated outside the government-owned theatre that showed the movie, entitled "Bombay". They alleged that the film, which is also available in video stores, encourages Muslim women to marry Hindus and shows women in Muslim head and face covers dancing in the yard of a mosque. The state-run Kuwait News Agency said the interior minister, Sheikh Saud Al Sabah, ordered "Bombay" withdrawn from video shops.

Iran says 13,000 held on smuggling charges

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian law enforcement agencies have arrested more than 13,000 people for smuggling in three months, a senior officer told Iran's state-run television network Sunday. General Reza Seifollahi, commander of the national law enforcement forces, said they had been involved in smuggling contraband worth millions of dollars, including 800 vehicles and 900 carpets. He said that smuggled currency, including \$1.75 million, 118,000 Japanese yen and 106,000 deutschmarks, was recovered in the operations between March 21 and June 20. Gen. Seifollahi reported that 2,127 people were arrested in one operation alone. It was carried out in late June and netted 2,200,000 cartons of foreign cigarettes, 200,000 litres of fuel, 15,000 packs of medicine, 1,820 firearms, 220 launches, and boats, and 80 automobiles, the general reported.

Demirel urges Greece to put aside animosity

ANKARA (AP) — President Suleyman Demirel has called on Greece to put aside animosity and solve conflicts peacefully, it was reported on Sunday. Mr. Demirel told the national daily Hürriyet in an interview that the Greeks engaged in provocations against Turkey because of a "Turkish complex. If you provoke us, then you will create troubles for yourself," Mr. Demirel said, obviously referring to Greek authorities. He appeared to be referring to the recent meeting of six Greek parliamentarians with the fugitive Turkish Kurdish guerrilla leader Abdullah Ocalan in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. A visit by the head of the Turkish Kurdish parliament-in-exile to Athens further upset Turkey. Mr. Demirel also reassured Turkey's earlier statements that a Greek move to extend its territorial waters to 12 miles would lead to war. "This is not a cry for war. It is Turkey's vital interest," Mr. Demirel said.

Israeli army denies Shahak abandoned troops

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's army on Sunday defended a man due to join Yitzhak Rabin's cabinet against charges that while army chief in 1992 he abandoned wounded soldiers in a training accident. An Israeli newspaper raised the charges on Friday in a report on Ehud Barak and the incident in which five soldiers from an elite unit were killed and six wounded by a missile accidentally fired during the November 1992 exercise. Yediot Ahronoth daily quoted witnesses who said that while other officers rushed to help before doctors arrived, General Barak stood with his arms crossed and later left in his helicopter without taking casualties. The 53-year-old Barak, army chief until six months ago, is expected to become Israel's interior minister within a month. Witnesses told the newspaper he may have been in shock. In a statement the army said on Sunday that Gen. Barak's helicopter only arrived about the time of the rescue helicopters and had no medical crew or stretchers. It said Gen. Barak left with other senior officers about 45 minutes after the disaster when he ascertained there were enough medical crews and the wounded were being loaded onto other helicopters.

Tantawi ratifies death sentences handed down to 3 militants

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's highest ranking Islamic official confirmed on Sunday three death sentences on three Muslim militants for killing a police officer and a Christian headmaster in 1993.

The three men — Ahmad Abdul Qadir, Mohammad Fawzi and fugitive Gharib Al Shahat — were sentenced to hang last month by the state supreme court, but the verdict was referred to Grand Mufti Mohammad Tantawi before becoming binding.

Execution cases are routinely referred to Sheikh Tantawi and his endorsements are rarely withheld.

"Shut up, shut up," Judge Ahmad Bahaouddin Budour shouted as the defendants yelled accusations of injustice and debauchery.

The militants were accused of killing Lieutenant-Colonel Mohammad Hassan Abdul Shafi in October 1993 in the town of Suez and of wounding two policemen who tried to stop them pasting anti-government posters.

Fikri Fakhri Sergios, headmaster of the Franciscan school in Suez was killed by the group in a separate incident.

"The infidel, the debauched liar has spoken," screamed Fawzi from behind bars as Judge Budour confirmed his sentence following Sheikh Tantawi's approval. "We're going to get you, you infidel."

Handcuffed and in white prison garb, the defendants were smiling at reporters until the judge entered the courtroom swarming with guards. Then they began chanting.

"I swear with God Almighty as my witness this man is unjust," Fawzi said as the others chanted "I take refuge in God."

When guards were asked to remove the defendants for disruption, a prisoner grabbed a police baton, trying to wrench it from the guard who eventually overpowered him.

Judge Budour also sentenced a total of 13 to life imprisonment with hard labour and 15 years in prison in connection with the same case.

Prosecutors have said the defendants had close ties with Talaat Yassin Hammam, the late leader of the

military unit of the militant Al Gamaa-Al-Islamiyah, the main group fighting to establish a purist Islamic state in Egypt.

The Gamaa, which has claimed responsibility for the failed attempt to kill President Hosni Mubarak in Ethiopia last month, has targeted policemen, Christians and intellectuals in its campaign of violence aimed at toppling his 13-year rule.

Relatives — mainly women and children — hurled abuse and insults at the police cordoning them off from the courtroom, also venting their wrath at cameramen and reporters.

"You sons of bitches, all my son did was pray and you give him 15 years," howled one woman as others sobbed. "Don't pray, don't anyone ever pray."

Egypt has condemned a total of 67 militants to death since the Gamaa started its campaign in 1992. Most of the sentences have been passed by military courts.

More than 800 people have been killed, mostly police and militants, in clashes in the last three years.

World Bank, PNA sign agreements

GAZA (R) — World Bank President James Wolfensohn signed three agreements with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on Sunday and promised to keep up aid to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in developing self-rule.

"We will seek in everything we do to be supportive and helpful and participate in further developments of your plans for your people and we'll be here as your partners," Mr. Wolfensohn told Mr. Arafat at a joint news conference in Gaza.

The two men signed agreements establishing the World Bank office in Gaza, a trust fund credit in the amount of \$20 million for the rehabilitation of Palestinian education and health sectors, and a development plan for Gaza's sewerage system.

"We are in need of this help because all of our infrastructure was destroyed. We have to start it from zero," Mr. Arafat told the news conference. He thanked Mr. Wolfensohn for his organisation's help.

The bank has taken a leading role in coordinating international help for Gaza and the West Bank.

Aideed seeks aid for starving Somalis

MOGADISHU (R) — Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed, recently elected by his supporters as interim president of this anarchic country, appealed on Sunday for aid to relieve starvation and disease among Somalis.

General Aideed, famous for surviving a U.S.-led hunt in 1993 during an ill-fated U.N. peace-keeping mission, promised to provide protection and facilities for aid groups which mostly left along with U.N. forces earlier this year.

"The era of extortion, roadblocks, chaos and lawlessness is over," Mogadishu radio quoted Gen. Aideed as saying.

His statement came shortly after a French aid agency, International Action Against Hunger (AICF), said one of four children aged under five in Mogadishu were starving.

It also followed a ceremony on Sunday in which members of the cabinet of Gen. Aideed, whose election is not recognised by rival

clans, were sworn in.

A U.S. force landed in Somalia in 1992 where 300,000 had died in a famine, caused in part by warring clans preventing aid supplies getting through. A United Nations force took over in 1993 but was forced to leave this year by the lawlessness.

In his statement, Gen. Aideed said he had ordered militia leaders to control their armed men.

His statement, made in the name of the "transitional government of Somalia," said the people, already affected by famine, floods, droughts and the effects of civil war, now faced malnutrition, starvation and disease.

In many areas, including the capital, malnutrition and deaths, especially among women and children, had risen sharply since aid agencies had either pulled out or cut their activities following the withdrawal of a U.N. force last March.

There was a lack of food and clean water supplies in many areas, he added.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00	Animals of Farling Wood
14:30	Hey Day
15:00	Survival
16:00	Families
17:30	French Programmes
18:00	News in French
19:35	Camp Wilder
20:00	McHale's Navy
20:30	The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15	Hears of the West
22:00	News in English
22:25	The Ruth Rendell Mysteries
23:00	Les Miserables
23:59	Never the Twain

PRAYER TIMES

05:59	Fajr
06:23	(Sunrise) Duha
12:40	Zuhr
16:21	'Asr
19:49	Maghrib
21:23	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Switzerland, Tel. 610740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church, Tel. 661757
Catholics Church, Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 625541

Anglican Church Tel. 638551, Tel. 626543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775291
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church "en" 624328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 644195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Moderate weather conditions will prevail with winds westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp.
Amman 15/27
Aqaba 23 / 37
Dead Sea 15 / 30
Jordan Valley 21 / 34

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 29, Aqaba 41 Humidity readings: Amman 48 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mukhlis Mazahrah	620425
Dr. Jamal Ibrahim	647551
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad	646070
Dr. Hisham Kan'an	790286
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637053
Nazrouh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	639730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shimessan pharmacy	637660
Narouh pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	647632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qaru	(—)
Alqade pharmacy	(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Randa Shabin	995710
Khalifeh pharmacy	984417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
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Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 661111
Rescue 660341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Fire Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 642362
Traffic Police 666140
Public Security Department 660321
Hotel Complaints 662800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 617101

Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Abdala Telephone Repairs 661101
Crisis Centre 774111
Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann	644281/6

AKLICH Maternity, J. Ann. 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amman 666140
Palestine, Shimessan 664711/4
Shimessan Hospital 660131
University Hospital 843945
The Islamic, Abdali 661111/5
Al-Abdi, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, AJ-Mulajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 777101/3
Queen Alia Hospital 662241/50
Army, Marka 661111/5
Gaza Alia Hospital 662241/50
Aqaba Hospital 674155

The Arab Center for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)783323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900660
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)780732
Al-Hilam Modern Hospital	(09)780990

IRBID:

Prince Basmal Hospital	(03)575555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(03)272725

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45	Beirut (RJ)
07:00	Damascus (RJ)
12:30	Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:45	Doha (GJF)
18:45	Pana, Damascus (AP)
20:35	Cairo (ME)
21:10	Beirut (ME)
21:30	Damascus (RJ)
21:35	London (RJ)
13:30	Cairo (RJ)
21:45	Frankfurt (RJ)
22:25	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:30	Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
01:30	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:40	Istanbul (TK)
06:50	London (RJ)
07:30	Rome (AZ)
08:45	Beirut (ME)
12:00	Khartoum (SD)
14:30	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GJF)
15:30	Beirut (RJ)
16:30	Abu Dhabi (GJF)
21:25	Cairo (MS)
22:30	Dubai (EK)
22:45	Beirut (ME)
00:10	Damascus, London (BA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45	Beirut (RJ)
07:00	Damascus (RJ)
12:30	Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:45	Doha (GJF)
18:45	Pana, Damascus (AP)
20:35	Cairo (ME)
21:10	Beirut (ME)
21:30	Damascus (RJ)
21:35	London (RJ)
13:30	Cairo (RJ)
21:45	Frankfurt (RJ)</



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Sunday meets with Ahmad Zubaidi, the head of an Omani educational team visiting Jordan to explore cooperation in educational fields (Petra photo)

Visiting Omani educational team praises work of Jordanian teachers

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of an Omani educational team, Ahmad Zubaidi, now on a visit to Jordan Sunday said that his country appreciates the role of Jordanian teachers employed in Omani schools and was interested in securing the services of more Jordanian teachers and benefiting from the Kingdom's educational expertise.

Mr. Zubaidi praised the work of Jordanian teachers employed in Oman saying that they proved that they were always up to date with new trends in teaching methods and their work in secondary schools, in particular, has been remarkable and exemplary.

He said he was pleased to see these teachers interacting with the local communities and taking part in social activities in Oman.

Mr. Zubaidi was speaking at a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh with whom he reviewed Omani-Jordanian cooperation in educational

For his part Mr. Rawabdeh said Jordan was ready to meet the requirements of the

Omani Ministry of Education and supply it with qualified teachers and supervisors and also extend available expertise that would help Oman develop its educational curricula, school textbooks and examination systems as well as train its teachers.

Discussions at the meeting covered the exchange of educational expertise. Mr. Rawabdeh outlined the Ministry of Education's plans for teacher training programmes and introducing new curricula and textbooks as well as the construction of new schools.

Committee draws up plans for support of arts

AMMAN (J.T.) — The newly formed National Committee for Culture and Arts will hold a meeting towards the end of July under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, according to an announcement made by Minister of Culture Samir Habashneh Sunday.

The committee will discuss and endorse by-laws and a general plan of work as well as sources of funds to finance its activities and cultural projects. Mr. Habashneh said.

The two sub-committees formed by the national committee have held meetings in the past three months to prepare their reports for submission to the upcoming committee meeting, said the minister.

One of the sub-committees in charge of planning has prepared several working papers in cooperation with representatives of cultural and artistic groups, including the Jordanian Writers' Association and the Jordanian Artists' Association.

The sub-committee on planning has drawn up plans for supporting artists, writers and theatre work, for creating a national theatre group and an academy of arts in the Kingdom, and for providing assistance to young Jordanian artists.

The sub-committee on planning has furthermore considered the creation of a national musical troupe and has drawn plans for the development of handicrafts, the minister said.

Mr. Habashneh said that

the two sub-committees are preparing working papers and recommendations to enter into the agenda of the planned national committee's two-day meeting to be held at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman.

The National Committee for Culture and Arts was formed in May to advance national culture and to safeguard Arab identity, according to an announcement at the time of its formation.

The prime minister, who addressed the first committee meeting on May 6, said that the committee was formed to support cultural activities and would not act as a substitute for the Ministry of Culture nor as a higher cultural council.

Australian foreign minister to arrive for talks with senior government officials

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans pays a one-day visit to Jordan this week for talks with Jordanian leaders on bilateral relations, the Arab-Israeli peace process and the economic development of the Middle East in the wake of progress in the peace negotiations.

Mr. Evans, who last visited Jordan in 1992, will arrive from Tunisia on Thursday and leave for Syria and Lebanon Friday afternoon.

Brian Pullen, consul at the Australian embassy here, said the visit was aimed at "furthering the already very good relations between Australia and Jordan."

He said Mr. Evans would hold talks with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

Audiences with His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan have not yet been confirmed.

Mr. Evans' visit will be the second by an Australian minister to Jordan this year.

Trade Minister Bob McMull-

lan visited in February in what was seen as a major boost to Jordanian-Australian trade relations.

During Mr. McMulllan's visit, Jordanian and Australian businessmen held talks on means to expand economic cooperation between the two countries, and several business ventures discussed are now taking shape.

According to official Jordanian figures, Australia's exports to Jordan — mostly livestock, meat, rice and dairy products — amounted to about JD 40 million in 1994 while the Kingdom's exports to Australia — phosphates and fertilizer products — were around JD 7 million.

Australia, which has a large agricultural base, could increase its imports from Jordan, officials say.

Also expected to be discussed during Mr. Evans' visit to Jordan are international issues of concern to Jordan and Australia, including the situation in former Yugoslavia, and regional issues such as Iraq.

The role of the Australian public and private sectors in the Middle East and North

Africa economic summit scheduled to be held in Amman in October is also expected to be reviewed.

On the political front, Australia is a close supporter of the Middle East peace process and has often crossed swords with Israel over Canberra's rejection of policies adopted by the Jewish state.

The Australian government has repeatedly stated that it would like to see peace restored to the Middle East and supports the Arab call for the implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions relevant to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Beirut embassy to be reopened

While in Lebanon, Mr. Evans, foreign minister since September 1988, who will be accompanied by Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs Nick Bolles, will reopen the Australian embassy in Beirut on July 18. The mission was closed in 1984 at the height of the Lebanese civil war.

"An era of growth and prosperity beckons in the new Lebanon," the two min-

isters said in a joint statement on June 27. "We applaud the enthusiasm with which the Lebanese people have embraced the process of national reconciliation and are heartened by the reconstruction now occurring."

"It is clear that the renowned capabilities and talents of the Lebanese people are once again finding their fullest expression, to the benefit of their country, and, ultimately, to the wider region."

Australia has a sizeable Lebanese community.

Mr. Evans, 51, served as Australia's attorney general between March 1993 and December 1984, minister of resources and energy between December 1984 and July 1987, and minister of transport and communications from July 1987 to September 1988, when he became foreign minister.

Mr. Evans holds first-class honours degrees in law from Melbourne University and in politics, philosophy and economics from Oxford University.

Prior to entering active politics by becoming a member of the senate in



Gareth Evans

1978, Mr. Evans practised industrial law as well as constitutional and civil liberties law.

He has written several books.

He is best known internationally for his roles in developing the U.N. peace plan for Cambodia, helping to bring to a conclusion the international Chemical Weapons Convention and founding the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

Two to face trial soon for attack on French diplomat

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prosecutors are expected to send several people to the State Security Court this week on charges of subversion, among them two Jordanians accused of shooting and wounding a French diplomat in March, judicial sources said Sunday.

Others include members of two groups who were apprehended in the course of plotting subversion, according to the sources.

Salem Abdullah and Ahmad Qassem, both 22, both accused in the Feb. 24 attack on Gilles Heine, a second secretary at the French embassy, will be charged with attempted murder, plotting to carry out extremist attacks and possessing illegal arms and explosives.

Abdullah and Qassem,

identified as a school messenger and a furniture shop assistant, plotted to carry out extremist attacks and targeted foreign tourists, according to the charge sheet.

They made explosive devices and wanted to take over a tourist bus in southern Jordan, but were dissuaded by the presence of security guards around the vehicle.

They panicked and ran away but dropped the bag containing the explosives.

Shortly afterwards, they came across Mr. Heine and his wife who had stopped their car at a scenic spot in Wadi Mujib, engaged the diplomat in a quarrel and shot him in the chest and foot, according to the prosecutors.

The wife was unhurt.

A police patrol which happened to be in the vicinity

immediately apprehended the two.

Mr. Heine was flown by helicopter to Amman where he underwent treatment before being taken to Paris for recuperation.

No immediate detail was available on whether the two assailants belonged to any organised group or what motivated them to stage the attack.

Reports in the local press said at that time that the two belonged to an extremist group which opposed the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed in October and resented Israelis visiting Jordan.

According to the reports, they mistook the French diplomat and his wife for Israelis and hence the attack. No independent confirmation was available on this version of the incident.

Several theories were for-

warded at the time of the attack as to the motive behind it.

Some said the assailants wanted to kidnap the French diplomat and his wife, others said the attack was spontaneous for some unexplained reason.

The incident took place during the fasting month of Ramadan, sparking speculation that the attack was prompted by behaviour incompatible with the traditions of the holy month on the part of the diplomat and wife.

But the French embassy issued a strong statement affirming that its diplomats were closely familiar with local customs and traditions and respected them in all aspects.

It was one of the rare attacks on foreigners in Jordan and security sources described it as isolated inci-

dent. The prosecution was expected to refer the case to the State Security Court this week.

Also pending are charges against at least six to eight other people, all of them suspected of plotting subversion in Jordan.

Some of them are members of a group called "Islamic Revival," which, according to reports in the Israeli press, was behind a recent infiltration across the northern Jordanian-Israeli borders.

Two of the infiltrators were shot dead, and the third surrendered, Israeli reports said. Another three are suspected of belonging to an illegal group headed by a man identified only as M.M. The precise nature of the expected charges against the three was not immediately known.

Minister swears in new JPA members, says role of press is to serve national interests

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Khaled Karaki Sunday said that Jordan was currently going through major changes in development and therefore required upgrading its journalistic standards to serve as an example to the rest of the Arab World.

Addressing a ceremony held at the Jordan Press Association (JPA) for the swearing in of 21 new journalists, the minister said that journalists need to fully understand certain conditions involved in their profession.

The minister said that the job of the journalist is not only to relay news but also to guide public opinion and to be totally committed to serving national interests.

The government will not allow any interference in

Jordan's internal affairs by any party or source, the minister stressed.

Dr. Karaki urged journalists to remain committed to the profession and added that whatever is published in the Kingdom is interpreted by readers abroad as Jordan's official message to the outside world.

Describing the relationship between the Ministry of Information, newspaper owners and the JPA as stable, Dr. Karaki said that JPA laws are currently undergoing amendment and are under review by the Lower House of Parliament.

The JPA enjoys the support of His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian government, the minister said.

The recent government decision to exempt the press from customs duty on imported paper until the end

of 1995 reflects the government's determination to back the country's print media, he added.

The newly-inducted members bring the number of active JPA members to 305, according to JPA files.

Present at the ceremony which was addressed by JPA President Suleiman Qudah, was Ministry of Information Secretary General Nayef Mulla, Director of the Press and Publications Department Mohammad Amin, and JPA board members.

Following are the names of the journalists who were sworn in:

Oreib Masaadeh, Mohammad Hujji, Majdi Alawneh, Khatib Salman, Sinan Shquideh, Munjid Namir, Rakan Saadeh, Suleiman Qubellat, Hikmat Momani, Taher Adwan, Hani Kurdi,



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Khaled Karaki Sunday swears in new members of the Jordan Press Association (Petra photo)

Shihadeh Abu Bakar, Salam Khurma, Walid Abu Baker, Shawwa, Khaled Zubaidi, Jihad Abu Baidar, Khaled Marzouk Butush, Khalil Qudah and Fatima Smadi.

UNDP representative explores agency's potential contribution to MENA summit in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Jorgen Lissner, the new resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Jordan, is currently holding talks with Ministry of Planning officials to discuss ways in which the UNDP can contribute to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit in October.

Mr. Lissner, who assumed his post at the beginning of July succeeding Othman Hashem, said the UNDP is committed to discussing development schemes and the role of the private sector.

We are currently discussing the prospect of holding an investment meeting with Jordanian officials in Amman in November following the MENA summit to discuss opportu-

nities for investment in the peace era, said Mr. Lissner.

Mr. Lissner said that he was satisfied with the level of cooperation from the Jordanian government in the implementation of UNDP-financed projects.

He said that the UNDP is currently working with the government on the implementation of a programme designed to develop water, social and vocational training sectors in the Kingdom.

The UNDP is financing social projects carried out by the government in the rural regions and has allocated \$500,000 to help Jordan establish a water data bank to help solve water problems, added Mr. Lissner.

The UNDP has also allocated

\$350,000 towards helping Jordan develop vocational training programmes in a bid to help the country deal with unemployment, according to Mr. Lissner.

He also said that the UNDP is at present financing a \$3 million project designed to protect the Azraq Oasis.

Mr. Lissner said that he met with a delegation from the United Nations Fund for Agricultural Development which is currently visiting Jordan and has discussed the provision of a multi-million dollar soft loan to help Jordan develop its livestock and agricultural industries over a three-year period commencing in 1996.

Next month, the UNDP will hold talks with the Ministry of Planning



Jorgen Lissner

on the financing of several projects contained within the 1997-2001 five-year development plan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

* "Cyrano de Bergerac," at the French Cultural Centre, at 8:00 p.m.

* "The Civil War: Forever Free, 1862," at the American Center, at 5:00 p.m.

* Japanese film with Arabic subtitles, "The Golden Days of Japanese Cinema," at the Samir Rifai Auditorium, University of Jordan, at 5:00 p.m.

SHORT STORY RECITAL

* By Minister of State Taha Habashneh and Mohammad Tumaleh at the Phoenix Gallery of Culture and Arts, at 7:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings by Muhammad Bushnaq at Balqa Art Gallery in Fuheis.

* Paintings by Adnan Yahyah at Darat Al Funun Jabal Weibdeh.

* Paintings by Bernadette Gerges and Rita Gerges entitled "Lebanon Tomorrow," at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Paintings by Jordanian Artist Muhammad Majali at the Phoenix Gallery of Culture and Arts, Garden Street.

* Works by Iraqi artist Tahija Hakim at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

* Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

* Works by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Gallery.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pakistani ladies donate to YWMA

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, the Honorary President of the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA) Sunday received a cheque representing the amount of proceeds from a festival sponsored by the Pakistani Ladies in Amman to support the YWMA's projects. The cheque was delivered to Princess Sarvath by Mrs. Sarwar Naqvi, wife of the Pakistani ambassador to Jordan.

Minister opens Arab-Afro youth camp

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat today opens the second Arab-Afro youth camp. Attending the inauguration ceremony will be the Arab League's assistant secretary general, Ahmad Qadri, and senior Ministry Of Youth officials. Taking part in the 11-day camp will be 120 youth from 13 Arab and African countries, in addition to Jordan.

Envoy reviews recent Jordan-Yemen accords

Sanaa (Petra) — Jordan's ambassador to Yemen, Fayez Rabie Sunday discussed with several Yemeni ministers the Jordanian-Yemeni agreements, which were recently concluded.

Eleven die in violence as strike paralyses Karachi

KARACHI (AFP) — At least 11 people were killed Sunday including a local leader of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's party as strike-bound Karachi remained paralysed for a third day, police and officials said.

Masked men sprayed bullets from a car at an estate agency office in central Karachi, killing Aslam Shah, 55, a leading member of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) branch and a hawker. Five others were injured in the attack, police said.

Groups of armed men torched at least six vehicles and set ablaze a bank while snipers shot dead three people in the eastern district of Liaquatabad, officials said.

Two more people were shot dead in Orangi and Saeedabad areas in the western part of the city while another person was killed near the airport, they said.

One person was killed in the industrial area of Korangi, focus of a clean-up operation by paramilitary troops since Tuesday, and five others were shot dead by a sniper elsewhere, police said.

Some 25 people including a policeman and a paramilitary soldier died during the six-

day-long Korangi operation, which officials say is aimed at arresting armed militants of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM).

Police reported arresting five militant members of MQM, which represents Urdu-speaking people who migrated from India after the subcontinent's partition in 1947.

They were picked up from a house of Korangi Sunday and some arms, a vehicle and a wireless set were also seized, police said.

Traffic was largely off the roads in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city and commercial hub, with shops and markets closed and most people staying indoors.

The MQM had called for a weekend mourning for a party leader who died in police custody.

It claims Aslam Subzwari was "tortured" to death by police, but authorities say he died of a heart attack following his arrest Thursday on charges of engaging in terrorism.

A strike was also observed in the second largest city of southern Pakistan's Sindh Province, Hyderabad, 160

kilometres northeast of here.

Incidents of sporadic firing and a partial shutdown were reported in other Sindh cities of Nawabshah, Sukkur and Mirpurkhas.

The mourning followed a two-day weekly protest started by the party recently over the rape of a girl and slaying of a MQM activist late last month.

The government and MQM have agreed to hold unconditional talks in Islamabad Tuesday, in a bid to restart a process to restore peace in Karachi where ethnic and religious violence has claimed more than 900 lives this year.

MQM is demanding an end to what it calls discrimination against the Urdu-speaking community in Sindh which is ruled by the PPP.

The party denies government charges that it was behind the violence.

Founded in 1985, the MQM is a political force in Karachi, Sindh's capital, and another urban centre, Hyderabad. The PPP's power base is the province's majority community of Sindhi-speaking natives who dominate the region.

Meanwhile, MQM leader Altaf Hussain accused the government of torture and murder and appealed for U.N. intervention before the violence degenerates into civil war.

The call by Mr. Hussain came after the rebel leader died in police custody and torture marks were found in his body.

"If the United Nations and the international community do not take action now to stop the genocide of our people in Karachi by government forces then the city will become like another Rwanda or Bosnia," Mr. Hussain told the Associated Press in a telephone interview from London, where he has lived in self-imposed exile since 1992.

Eyewitnesses told the Associated Press that the body of Mr. Sabzwari was badly mauled.

The Edhi Trust, an independent charity organisation which operates an ambulance service, said Mr. Sabzwari's body was brought to its morgue by police after being released Friday from Jinnah Hospital, where doctors confirmed he had died from "severe torture."



KOREA: Rescue workers carry 21-year-old part-time department store employee, Choi Myung-Suk, after pulling him out from the rubble of the Sampoong department store 10 days after it collapsed. The rescuers, drilling into the rubble in heavy monsoon rain, were alerted to the man's presence by his shout, "give me water, give me water." (AFP photo)

Man rescued after 10 days in rubble of Seoul store

SEOUL (AFP) — A 21-year-old student was rescued Sunday after surviving for more than 10 days in an air pocket under the rubble of a collapsed department store, rescuers and television reports said.

The survivor, Choi Myung-Suk, a part-time worker at the doomed Sampoong Department Store, was miraculously plucked alive from deep under the debris of what was the five-storey posh Sampoong Department Store.

Mr. Choi was the 34 person to be pulled out alive since the collapse, but the last survivor, female shop assistant Lee Eun-Yong, was dug out seven days ago, died two hours after being rescued in hospital.

Mr. Choi's rescue triggered angry demonstrations by the desperate relatives of the hundreds of missing in the disaster, who charged rescuers had been quick to give up hope of survivors.

"I'm Okay, I'm Okay," he told journalists before asking for a Coke as he was carried out to an ambulance, his eyes covered with yellow towel to protect his unaccustomed eyes from the morning sunlight.

Stunned rescue workers, who Sunday dragged eight more bodies from the debris, bringing the official death toll to 158, rushed through driving monsoon rain to the stretcher and burst into spontaneous applause.

From his hospital bed he

later told journalists he had to squat in the small air pocket, licking rain water seeping through the rubble, and chewing on a paper carton to stay alive.

At one time, he said, "I lost all hope and gave up."

"I feel comfortable now," he said, adding: "I will become a filial (faithful) son from now."

"I thought five days might have passed at best," he said adding that he was surprised to hear that more than 10 days passed.

At the time the store collapsed on June 29, Mr. Choi, who worked in a third floor shoe store, said he had been on an escalator leaving the basement level supermarket carrying an ice cream.

"I felt the building shaking. I tried to flee, but it tumbled down too quickly. I lay down on my stomach."

He shouted out from the pitch darkness of his cramped niche for any other survivors and two women responded, trapped but unreachable in the rubble near him.

Both, however, later suffocated and died from inhaling the smoke of fires that broke out in the debris, he said.

Mr. Choi was found when an astounded rescuer working an excavator was alerted to his presence by his shout: "Help me, help me. I'm here. I'm here."

Mr. Choi's father, 52-year-old Choi Bong-Yul, who had been working as a volunteer at the site since the collapse, said he had kept praying for

his son.

In addition to the 158 dead, 262 are still listed as missing and 900 were injured in the collapse, which was blamed on shoddy construction work and illegal modifications.

The hundreds of angry relatives of the missing started marching en masse through the rain towards the presidential Blue House, many of them weeping.

They clashed with hastily mobilised riot police, screaming accusations that the city administration had been too hasty in giving up hope for survivors.

Television showed the crowd beating against the riot police's shields and kicking them before being driven back.

Meanwhile, prosecutors said that a former head of Ward Office in Socho where the doomed store was located, Lee Choong-Woo, had admitted to accepting tens of thousands of dollars in bribes from Sampoong in return for overlooking illegal modifications to the building.

Mr. Lee, who was quizzed overnight, was to be formally arrested later Sunday for indictment.

The prosecutors said they would summon the current Ward Office head and another of his predecessors, also on charges of accepting kickbacks from the owners of the store, who are under arrest charged with manslaughter.

India's ruling party under fire over 'Tandoori Murder'

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The gruesome "Tandoori Murder" involving a former Congress (I) official has sparked calls for shake-up of the ruling party in India.

Opposition parties and even some members of the Congress, outraged by the macabre crime dubbed the "Tandoori Murder" by the local press, have demanded a cleansing of India's oldest political party of "criminal elements."

The body of Naina Sahni, 29, the wife of former New Delhi Youth Congress President Sushil Kumar Sharma, 36, was found burning in the tandoori oven of a downtown restaurant here July 2.

Police have issued a warrant for Sharma's arrest on murder charges and launched a nationwide hunt for the chief suspect in a case which has sent shock waves through the Indian capital and embarrassed the ruling party.

There has been one arrest in the case. Keshav Kumar, another Delhi Youth Congress leader and a partner with Mr. Sharma in the restaurant where the body was discovered, has been held on charges of trying to dispose of evidence.

Sahni, the murder victim, was also a general secretary of the Delhi Youth Congress.

A number of Delhi Youth Congress members have been hauled in for questioning by the police.

The Congress, in a move

designed to distance itself from the scandal, has expelled Sharma, who served as Delhi Youth Congress president from 1989 to January of this year.

Indian Youth Congress President Maninderjit Singh Bitta vowed to purge "criminals" from the youth chapter of the 110-year-old Congress, which has ruled India virtually uninterrupted since independence.

The moves have, however, failed to pacify critics. The main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Indian People's Party (BJP), has said the "Tandoori Murder" case was "just the tip of the iceberg."

"The entire system is rotten," said BJP MP Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

The centrist Janata Dal (People's Party) demanded legislation which would disqualify parties fielding candidates with criminal records.

"The alliance between criminals and politicians is happening across the board and this incident is just a manifestation of the deep rot," said Inder Kumar Gujral, a Janata Dal leader and former minister.

The Congress should cleanse itself, he added.

A spokesman for a dissenting faction of the Congress vowed to purge the ruling party of "criminals, touts and their godfathers" ahead of next year's parliamentary elections.

The Sunday Times of In-

dia, in a front-page editorial, said that it would be unfair to single out the Congress party for criticism.

"It is not the Congress Party alone which is afflicted by the presence in the ranks of a large number of functionaries who are not fully conversant with the norms of civilised life," executive editor Gautam Adhikari wrote.

"Almost every party, regional and national, has thugs and goons ever ready to settle scores violently," he said. "Sometimes we hear of it, sometimes we don't."

Adding fuel to the controversy is a ruling by an Indian court last week providing protection from arrest for the fugitive Congress politician.

A Court in Madras, capital of Tamil Nadu state, granted "anticipatory bail" to Mr. Sharma, a judicial provision which protects from arrest persons claiming to be the subject of police harassment.

A lawyer for Mr. Sharma has claimed his client is innocent of the murder and is being framed by political rivals.

But additional police commissioner Maxwell Pereira, who is investigating the crime, said the granting of bail to Mr. Sharma indicated that he may continue to enjoy the blessings of influential patrons.

"Some people with clout still seem to be backing him," he said.

American hostage escapes from Kashmir rebels

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — An American tourist who was kidnapped by separatist rebels in Kashmir escaped from his captors in the middle of the night and fled to safety, he said Sunday.

"I took advantage of darkness and bad weather, and escaped at 2 a.m.," Saturday, John Childs of Simsbury, Connecticut, said in an interview in Srinagar. "I was not released."

Mr. Childs was kidnapped Tuesday evening along with another American and two Britons by militants of Al Faran, a little-known group fighting for Kashmir's independence from India. The rebels have demanded that India free jailed guerrillas.

Mr. Childs confirmed Sunday that the three other hostages were still being held by the militants, but he refused to say anything else about them or where they were.

He said he had not been injured by his captors, and had only received a few bruises on his feet while hiking through a mountainous area to safety after escaping.

He eventually reached the resort town of Pahalgam and Indian officials brought him back to Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir state. There, he was staying in a heavily-guarded government guest house and meeting with U.S. and Indian officials.

On Saturday, militants captured another Westerner, Dirk Hasert of Erfurt, Germany, who was travelling on horseback with a group of tourists, police said. It was unclear if Al Faran was involved, and whether Mr. Hasert was kidnapped before or after Mr. Childs' escape.

Before talking with a few reporters in Srinagar, Mr. Childs spoke by telephone with his mother, Helen Childs, in Salem, New York.

Afterward, in an interview with the Associated Press, Mrs. Childs said her son told her of his escape, but offered few details because he feared for the safety of the other captives.

Hundreds of Indian soldiers are combing through the Himalayan mountain region in northern India for the Hasert and the other three Western hostages.

Also captured were an American woman, two British women, a Canadian man and two Kashmiri guides, but the rebels freed them Wednesday with a note demanding the release of 21 jailed rebels.

Police said they were worried about 35 other foreigners, mostly trekkers, in the area. It was not immediately clear whether they would be asked to leave.

Sri Lanka launches big offensive against rebels

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lanka Sunday launched its first major military offensive against Tamil rebels since a ceasefire ended in April, killing at least 10 civilians and forcing tens of thousands to flee their homes, the military said.

"More than 10,000 troops backed by air cover broke out from the northern Palali army base" in northern Sri Lanka, said Brig. Sarath Munasinghe, a government military spokesman.

The operation began with navy ships, warplanes and long-range field guns at two military bases opening fire on Tamil rebel positions in guerrilla-held Jaffna Peninsula.

Soldiers supported by tanks then left Palali military base on the peninsula in two large fronts, he said.

At the same time, forces at Elephant Pass, the only other military base in Jaffna, shelled rebel positions in the area.

At least 85 civilians had been admitted to hospitals in the rebel-held Jaffna town and 10 of them died, said a military official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

More than 75,000 civilians fled the war zone, he said.

At least two soldiers were killed and 29 wounded, the official said. No rebel casualty figures were immediately

available.

"Troops met with enemy resistance and overcame it without much effort," said Lt.-Col. S. Weerasekera, a military spokesman.

An air force Bell-212 helicopter strafed rebel positions which were slightly damaged by rebel small arms fire and made an emergency landing at Palali base, said Lt.-Col. Weerasekera.

Military sources said on condition of anonymity that the offensive plans to expand the territory in Jaffna Peninsula that the military bases control, not to capture the town of Jaffna, where hundreds of thousands of Tamil civilians live.

The government warned two days ago that it would soon show its military strength against the Tamil rebels, who have been fighting for an independent homeland in the north and east for 12 years.

Before the offensive, Sri Lankan warplanes dropped leaflets on Jaffna Peninsula, where 800,000 people live, that imposed a curfew and warned of an impending attack, a military official in Colombo, the capital, said on condition of anonymity.

The rebels' clandestine radio also had warned Tamil civilians about a military build-up at two strategic points in the north.

Fighting between government troops and the rebels has mainly taken place in eastern Jaffna since April 19, when the rebels walked out of peace talks and broke the three-month truce.

The military had attacked some rebel positions in Jaffna Peninsula, 300 kilometres north of Colombo, but Sunday was its first major offensive anywhere.

Tamil rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran directs his operations from Jaffna, and neighbouring India is seeking his extradition because Tamil allegedly assassinated former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Two weeks ago, a government minister said the military was planning to strike at the Tamil rebel stronghold in the north.

Since the ceasefire was broken, the rebels have intensified their recruitment drives in the north and the east, even among Tamil schoolchildren, according to a human rights group in Colombo. The University Teachers for Human Rights. Most of the group's members are Tamils.

Since rebels broke the truce, they have used surface-to-air missiles for the first time, downed two warplanes, sunk two military gunboats and overrun several small military bases.

Chiluba to expose Kaunda's abuses

LUSAKA (AFP) — Zambia President Frederick Chiluba has said he will release a special human rights report next month exposing former President Kenneth Kaunda's "evil deeds," a local Sunday paper reported.

Mr. Kaunda was last week elected leader of the main opposition United National Independence Party (UNIP) and is poised to be Mr. Chiluba's main challenger at next year's presidential and general elections.

The Sunday Mail said Chiluba told women of his ruling Movement for Multi-Party Democracy (MMD) who went to endorse their support for him at State House Saturday that he would like people to know what the former president and his government did.

"We wanted to forget about all this, but since some people have come back to show that they are fit for politics, the people of Zambia should know their real characters and their evil deeds while in government," said Mr. Chiluba.

Mr. Kaunda, through UNIP, ruled Zambia for 27 years, 18 of them under one-party dictatorship until he was humiliatedly defeated by Mr. Chiluba and the MMD in the 1991 multi-party elections.

He claims he has been forced to come back to politics because the MMD government is bringing untold misery to the Zambians

Nigerian rulers to review coup trial

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's military rulers will convene a meeting this week to consider a coup trial which has been widely condemned abroad, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Thursday newspaper said the governing Provisional Ruling Council (PRC) would meet to discuss the trial of more than two dozen suspected coup plotters, including former ruler general Olusegun Obasanjo.

The independent paper quoted unnamed sources as saying the PRC meeting would be preceded by a broader meeting of top military officers.

There has been no official confirmation of the meeting. It is unclear whether the

coup-plot tribunal, which began sitting in secret June 5, has finished its work and passed sentences, which will be subject to confirmation of the PRC.

The West African country's military authorities have been silent about the trial which has become a topic of concern for many foreign governments and human rights bodies who have sought fair and open trials for those accused of plotting to topple the government March 1.

Local and foreign newspapers say some officers have been sentenced to death. Mr. Obasanjo has been given 25 years.

you, but only Africans. That is not the policy of the ANC," he stressed.

He also promised to beef up police presence in Indian areas to fight the rising growth in crime.

Mr. Mandela was addressing 10,000 people at the launch of a world Hindu conference in this town, which has South Africa's biggest coloured population.

His comment came a few months before municipal elections, scheduled for Nov. 1.

During South Africa's first non-racial elections in April 1994, the ANC lost heavily to the Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party in the province. The Indian community voted overwhelmingly for the National Party of F.W. de Klerk.

Chemist shows how to get blood from stone

LONDON (R) — An Italian chemist thinks he knows what makes "miraculous" statues of the Virgin Mary appear to weep blood. Dr. Luigi Garlaschelli said three ingredients were needed for weeping statues that have often attracted the Roman Catholic faithful — blood, a glazed ceramic or plaster statue and something sharp like a nail.

The research chemist said the blood can be poured into the hollow body of a porous statue which then soaks it up. Scratch off a tiny part of the glazing and the blood oozes out, he said. "When I put this to the test, this proved very satisfactory, baffling all onlookers," Dr. Garlaschelli wrote in the latest issue of Chemistry in Britain. Kieran Conry, of the Catholic Media Office, welcomed his findings, telling the Sunday Telegraph: "If God wanted to say something to us, there are more direct ways of doing it. The more research there is, the better."

Elephants at sea alarm islanders

NAIROBI (AFP) — Elephants are getting bad press again in Kenya, where they already have an unenviable reputation for being far deadlier than lions or crocodiles. The latest clash between humans and elephants occurred when they plunged into the Indian Ocean and headed for islands two kilometres (1.2 miles) offshore, the Standard reported here Friday, under the headline "Swimming elephants invade."

The daily paper told how "the sun-loving pachyderms slip into the waters off a mainland beach facing the Lamu archipelago, sink beneath the surface — and raise their trunks above the surface as they swim across the channel to Manda Island." There, local councillors complained, the elephants uprooted coconut palms and other food crops grown on the island. Officials with the government wildlife service were surprised by the sudden outburst of protests, since the elephants have been swimming across that stretch of water for centuries. It was on one of their regular migration routes, a spokesman explained. The scare about the ocean-going tuskers came a day after Nairobi's leading English-language newspaper the Daily Nation reported that damage caused by elephants was on the increase. Nine people were killed by them in 1990 and 40 in 1992, it reported. The latest wildlife service figures show 15 people killed, mostly by trampling, last year. "The deaths caused by elephants are on the decrease," said John Waitakha, head of the service's elephants programme. A file of incidents of conflict between animals and humans has been compiled by residents of affected areas and various organisations. The damages awarded to victims are generally held to be inadequate and paid too late. Since 1992, elephants have emerged as responsible for at least half the deaths of humans caused by wild animals, with the toll ascribed to lions and crocodiles far behind. A still more sensitive issue is the envisaged resumption of game hunting, which has been banned in Kenya for 18 years. The ban might be lifted as a way of culling some over-populous species, and Waitakha confirmed to AFP that a draft law was being looked into.

Taiwan arrests policeman who robs with toy gun

TAIPEI (R) — A policeman in debt from video games who tried to rob a bank with a toy gun was captured after he left clothes marked with his name near the scene of the crime, a fellow officer said Sunday. Huang Hsin-Min, a policeman in the central Taiwan city of Changghwa, tried to rob the Changghwa Sixth Cooperative on Saturday with a toy gun, the officer said. "He threatened the clerk with the toy gun but did not get any money because somebody pushed the alarm button in time and scared him away," the officer said by telephone from Changghwa. Huang was arrested Saturday after he left the toy gun and clothes marked with his name near the bank, the officer said. State-funded radio quoted Huang as saying he tried to rob the cooperative after failing to pay a debt of more than TQ400,000 (\$15,500) he accumulated playing video games.



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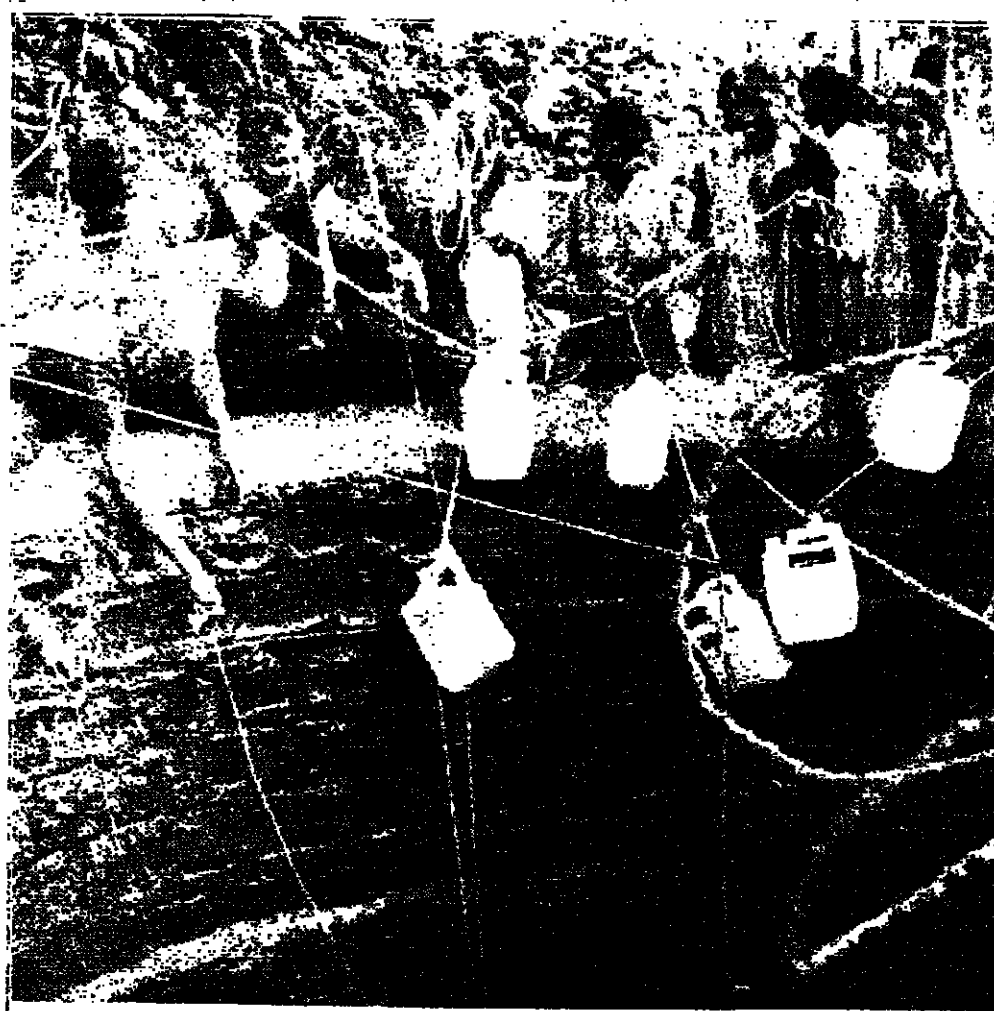
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U.S. seeks
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man who
with toy gun

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Residents of a north Bombay suburb try to face major water shortage due to delayed draw water from a well as the city continues to mousoon rains (AFP photo)

Dispute over sovereignty blocks progress at Russian-Chechen talks

GROZNY (AFP) — Chechen and Russian negotiators remained far apart on the issue of Chechnya's status Sunday as they attempted to build on a fragile agreement to hold elections in the breakaway Caucasus republic.

Chechen chief negotiator Usman Imaev said the negotiators would discuss "four questions — three disputed Russian proposals and one Chechen proposal on our suggestion on the status of Chechnya."

The head of the Russian delegation, Vyacheslav Mikhailov, meanwhile told reporters that "we will decide the question as provided for in the Russian constitution."

The Chechen side does not recognise that it is subject to the Russian constitution. Earlier the negotiators, meeting at the mission of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), reached broad agreements on a ceasefire and conditions for internationally-monitored general elections.

In what Mr. Imaev called a "goodwill gesture" the Chechens handed over three Russian prisoners of war at the start of the session.

The three, who were captured during the Russian storming of Grozny at the beginning of January, looked healthy but frightened.

Asked in front of Chechen and Russian soldiers whether they had been well treated, one of the prisoners said: "We lived where the fighters lived. We were under (Russian) bombardments, but it was okay."

Two days ago, the Russians gave back four Chechens.

One of the Russian negotiators, Arkady Volsky, said the two sides would examine political issues, including Chechnya's status, and economic issues.

He insisted that the independence issue must be settled after elections that "reflected people's wishes in the republic."

The Russian delegation, he added, could propose the addition in a final agreement

of a clause referring to the "future status of the republic."

But asked the position of President Dzhokhar Dudayev's government, which is hiding in the Caucasus mountains after seven months of war against Russian forces, Mr. Imaev said: "The status of Chechnya was decided in 1991." That is the date that Dudayev declared independence.

Between 15,000 and 30,000 people have been killed since Moscow poured troops into Chechnya in December 1994 to crush an independence bid by forces loyal to Mr. Dudayev. Chechnya's population is just 1.2 million.

The peace talks almost collapsed Friday after a Chechen family was massacred, allegedly by Russian soldiers.

Six people, including two children and an infant, were shot dead. A seventh, a woman in her 30s, was lying unconscious in hospital under heavy guard, with a bullet wound in her head.

She is the only eyewitness to the murders, although neighbours said they saw men in masks get out of a Russian-marked armoured vehicle and go into the house, just outside Grozny.

"She's the only real witness and she can't talk. She's on an artificial respirator," said Luisa Chapanova, the woman's niece.

Security was stepped up at the talks Sunday, with streets leading to the OSCE office closed off by Russian armoured cars.

A crowd of about 100 Chechen women, who hold daily pro-independence demonstrations outside the building, were barred entry to the area.

Instead, they gathered in the shadow of Russian fighting vehicles and sang the Zikr, a Muslim ritual. Several fainted in the heat, as they clapped and sang in unison.

Despite the ceasefire accord, Russian military officials said Chechen separatists attacked Russian military posts near three villages in southern Chechnya early

Sunday, wounding three soldiers.

Russian troops came under fire near Mayrup, Shatoi and Nizhneye Vedeno.

There were also attacks on Russian positions in Grozny itself, the officials said.

In Moscow, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Shakhrai said he expected the government's choice of the military option in Chechnya in December would be vindicated by the constitutional court, which Monday begins examining the legality of the decision.

"I am sure that these actions by the president and government were justified and necessary," Mr. Shakhrai told reporters.

The Chechen separatists will not present their case to the court.

Mr. Shakhrai acknowledged "guilt" over the fact that protracted and ultimately unsuccessful talks with the Chechen side aimed at finding a political solution had made the military intervention all the more difficult.

U.S. seeks access to activist detained in China

BEIJING (AP) — China's government has sent mixed signals about how it will treat a Chinese-born U.S. citizen and human rights activist accused of spying, fellow activists said Sunday.

Harry Wu was formally charged Saturday with stealing state secrets and passing them to overseas organizations.

The charges, relayed in a brief dispatch by the state-run Xinhua news agency, were the first official word of Mr. Wu's fate in more than 10 days. He was taken into custody June 19 entering China's northwestern Xinjiang province from Kazakhstan.

U.S. embassy officials, denied access to Mr. Wu throughout his detention, hoped to meet with him as early as Monday, a State Department statement said.

After being assured a meeting at some point would be allowed, Arturo Macias, the U.S. consul general, planned Sunday to travel to Wuhan, the central Chinese city where Mr. Wu was being held.

The embassy, however, refused to confirm whether Mr. Macias or any representative was going to Wuhan.

Mr. Wu spent 19 years in China's prison labour camps. He last lived in Wuhan, one of the reasons he may have been charged there, before emigrating to the United States in 1985 and becoming one of the most dogged documentarians of China's Gulag.

He repeatedly returned to China. A year ago, he investigated the execution of prisoners and the reported taking of their organs for transplants.

The national archives documenting organ transplants are in Wuhan, said Robin Munro a researcher with the New York-based Human Rights Watch-Asia.

Although he is hopeful, the charges Mr. Wu faces are among China's most serious. Espionage is classified as a "counterrevolutionary" crime and is punishable by death. Its definition was broadened in a 1993 law and encompasses the obtaining of state secrets and then passing them to foreign organizations.

"A mixed stance has been taken by the Chinese authorities," said Mr. Munro. "In their heart of hearts they want to treat him as a Chinese, but higher levels probably recognise he is a foreign national."

A key to discerning China's intents is how it handles the consular meeting with Mr. Wu, said Jeffrey Fiedler, a director of Mr. Wu's California-based Laogai Research Foundation.

Mr. Wu has been an effective lobbyist in Washington and many members of Congress count him as a friend. Mr. Fiedler expects that Capitol Hill will "explode" this week.

"The Chinese have decided they want to make this a high-profile case," Mr. Fiedler said. "What I don't understand is, is it that they hate Harry Wu or that they want to "humiliate the Clinton administration?"

French navy closes on Greenpeace Rainbow Warrior II vessel

ON BOARD RAINBOW WARRIOR II (AFP) — Four French navy vessels followed Rainbow Warrior II and another Greenpeace vessel Sunday as they closed on the military exclusion zone around France's nuclear test site in the Pacific.

Three of the vessels were around the Greenpeace flagship and a fourth was shadowing a 12-metre-yacht, the Vega, that joined Rainbow Warrior II en route for Mururoa Atoll on Saturday, a spokeswoman for the group said on-board.

The two environment protest vessels were headed very slowly toward the 12-nautical-mile (20-kilometre) exclusion zone that France has declared around Mururoa.

Rainbow Warrior II has been tailed by the French frigate Vendemiaire for several days. France has also put in place navy commandos to intercept any attempt by Greenpeace activists to reach the nuclear test site.

Other French vessels were waiting for Greenpeace at the edge of the military exclusion zone and in Mururoa.

Admiral Philippe Euverte, military commander on

Mururoa, said his anti-Greenpeace force was completed with the arrival of the patrol vessel La Railleuse, which is carrying the 150 commandos. A smaller patrol vessel, the Revi, was also in place.

He said the commandos would intercept any Greenpeace inflatable Zodiac boats that tried to get close to the atoll, where a new series of eight nuclear tests are due to start in September.

Commandos were used to stop Greenpeace activists on a similar mission in 1992. But Adm. Euverte said Friday there was "absolutely no need to use weapons" against Greenpeace, which had shown its "purely peaceful intentions."

Greenpeace has also said it does not seek a confrontation with the French navy, but tension was mounting on the flagship after two other military vessels appeared on the Rainbow Warrior radar screen.

Activists loaded food and fuel on the Zodiacs in preparation for any operation. Anti-nuclear banners were also put on the side of Rainbow Warrior II.

Rainbow Warrior II and the Vega, which has been used in past Greenpeace operations in the South Pacific, have also been joined by a Viking-style longboat chartered by Danish anti-nuclear activists.

David MacTaggart, Greenpeace's former executive director, made an appeal for "all small ships" in the Pacific to converge on Mururoa.

The veteran anti-nuclear campaigner said he was determined to breach the military exclusion zone "as I have done in the past."

"Small ships from New Zealand, Australia, all around the Pacific, could come here, in Mururoa, even if they stay outside of the 12 nautical mile zone," said Mr. MacTaggart. "They will have to put a war ship on each."

Rainbow Warrior II neared Mururoa just ahead of Monday's 10th anniversary of the sinking of the original Rainbow Warrior by French military agents in Auckland harbour.

Greenpeace planned to mark the anniversary in Auckland with a wreath-laying ceremony at the site of the bombing and a vigil outside the French consulate.

On July 10, 1985 the agents stuck a mine to the ship. One crewman, Fernando Pereira, a photographer, was killed when the vessel blew up and sank before it could set sail for Mururoa.

France called a moratorium on its tests in 1992. But its decision to resume tests has sparked international indignation. Greenpeace and many Pacific nations have expressed fears about the environmental impact. President Jacques Chirac says the tests are necessary to safeguard France's nuclear deterrent ahead of a comprehensive test ban treaty next year.

Meanwhile, French scientists were at loggerheads over the potential damage of the explosions.

Pierre Vincent, a professor at a volcanic research centre in the French city of Clermont-Ferrand, said the tests risked cracking open a dormant underground volcano and releasing radioactive pollution.

But Christian Lepareur, scientific director of the French Atomic Energy Commission, said on Mururoa that such claims were "crazy."

Khmer Rouge shells rattle buildings in Battambang

BATTAMBANG, Cambodia (AFP) — Explosions from incoming Khmer Rouge shells shook buildings early Sunday morning in the centre of this town, Cambodia's second largest, as the government sent in large numbers of troops to help battle the guerrillas.

An estimated 1,700 reinforcements have arrived in northwest Battambang province from several other provinces over the past several days to take part in what is expected to be a concerted push by the military to retake the government base at Treang about 42 kilometres southwest of Battambang town.

Included among the reinforcements were at least six teenage boys aged 13 to 17 who are part of the Battam-

bang provincial militia, a boy who said he was 17 told AFP, adding that he hoped to do his part to rout the rebels.

The Khmer Rouge took Treang, the last government position on National Route 10 before the rebel's stronghold of Pailin near the Thai border, last Tuesday after fierce fighting.

Though fighting and shelling have subsided since Thursday as both sides dig in and prepare for the other's next move, the Khmer Rouge have begun to shell areas quite close to Battambang town from the outlying district of Banan.

At least 10 shells hit the outskirts of Battambang early Friday and Saturday night, shaking buildings in the town's centre, though no injuries were reported.

Cali cartel leader arrested

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — A man reputed to be one of Colombia's most violent cocaine traffickers has surrendered to police, the fifth alleged kingpin of the Cali cartel to wind up behind bars in one month.

Phanor Arizabaleta, a 57-year-old rancher whose face is on thousands of wanted posters, turned himself in Saturday at the Bogota offices of the DAS, Colombia's secret police, said DAS Director Ramiro Berjano.

Mr. Arizabaleta, dressed in a blue striped suit and a tie and with his hands cuffed in front of him, was paraded by gun-toting police before a throng of journalists. He refused to answer their ques-

tions. When the alleged trafficker surrendered, he announced to police that he wanted to "submit to the rigors of justice," according to the DAS.

"I will answer to the accusations made against me... and am sure I can prove my innocence," Mr. Arizabaleta reportedly said.

The Cali cartel, which supplies 80 per cent of the world's cocaine and also exports heroin, has been hit almost daily by police raids in recent months.

In the past month, two Cali cartel kingpins have been arrested and three, including Mr. Arizabaleta, have surrendered. Two other Cartel leaders remain at large.

Subway attack suspects detained

TOKYO (AFP) — Police plan more charges against Aum Supreme Truth cult leader Shoko Asahara and have detained two disciples near the top of a wanted list over the Tokyo nerve gas attack, reports said Sunday.

Asahara, already charged with masterminding the March 20 Sarin gas attack that killed 11 people and injured 5,500, is expected to be charged over a Sarin last year at the city of Matsumoto, the Asahi Shimbun said.

The attack in June 1994 left seven people dead and some 600 injured.

Mr. Asahara, 40, is also being held on suspicion of ordering one follower to strangle another Aum member in January last year and violating the pharmaceutical and chemical control law.

Two Aum members wanted over the March subway attack were arrested near Tokyo Sunday, news reports said.

The reports, which were not confirmed by the authorities, identified the Aum followers as Noboru Nakamura, 29, and Satomu Hashimoto, 28. Six other Aum members suspected of involvement in the subway attack are on a wanted list that has been distributed nationwide.

Mainichi Shimbun reported that police were expected to question more than 20 Aum members soon on suspicion of illegally manufacturing automatic rifles.

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Palestinian trade unions and the autonomy

By Graham Usher

MOST ISRAELI and Palestinian analyses have focused on the territorial and security implications of Israel's separation policy. But the economic scenarios raised by separation are likely to be no less harmful to Palestinians' national claims of withdrawal and sovereignty. For what "economic separation" augurs is not an eventual disengagement of the Israeli and Palestinian economies in the occupied territories, but their reintegration, realised via an Israeli-driven relocation of Palestinians' most precious economic commodity — labour. Israel and the Palestine National Authority's (PNA) chosen instrument for this restructuring are "industrial zones".

On June 8, Sami Hulaila, an official of the Palestine Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), announced that the PNA and Israel had agreed to establish nine industrial zones inside the Palestinian autonomous areas, with three in Gaza and six in the West Bank. Each costing around \$70-100 million (and paid for by different donor countries), the aim of the zones is to create 30,000 new Palestinian jobs over the next three years. Israel, says Mr. Hulaila, will be responsible for the zones' infrastructure and security, the PNA for their "land, legal supervision and labour".

This last is the crucial component. With Palestinian unemployment currently running at 30 per cent in the West Bank and 50 per cent in Gaza, the zones' chief draw for private capital is going to be the vast reserves of jobless Palestinians that surround them. "Palestinians, land and soil is open for you all to come and invest," Yasser Arafat told a gathering of business people in Amman on May 24. "We will give you whatever incentives

and facilities you need to ensure your security and profit."

The prime incentive, clearly, is profit, delivered and ensured by a branch-plant economy based on super-exploitation. But the condition for this is that Palestinian labour remain in the autonomy what it had become under the occupation — a low-wage and unorganised workforce, an underclass.

Palestinian workers' political weakness

On the face of it, this is a dangerous assumption, since by far the strongest potential economic sector in the occupied territories is the Palestinian working class. According to the Democracy and Workers' Rights Centre (DWRC) in the West Bank, in April 1993 the Palestinian labour force consisted of 339,000 workers, with 90,000 working in the West Bank, 60,000 in Gaza and a colossal 189,000 in Israel. Yet both before the Oslo agreement and after, the political sway of such economic muscle was almost wholly debilitated. There were three main reasons for this.

First, due to the occupation and the chronic economic dependency on Israel it produced, Palestinian workers comprise, in the opinion of labour journalist Joost Hilteman, "a nascent migrant-worker class of predominantly nationalist orientation." The typical nature of their work in both Israel and the territories has been casual, informal, unskilled and itinerant, with all the attendant problems this has for effective trade union organisation. Palestinian workers have also historically viewed their main adversary as less their own bourgeoisie than the military occupation. When they did take collective action, as during the uprising, class demands were subordinate to nationalist demands. The upshot was — and is — an extremely low level of trade

union consciousness.

Second, since Oslo, Palestinian workers in Israel have been reeling from an unprecedented onslaught on their jobs and livelihood. From April 1993 onwards, Israel has repeatedly closed the territories not just as a collective punishment for Palestinian "security" offences, but as a means of segregating Gaza and the West Bank from "sovereign" Israel and from each other, to whittle down the number of Palestinian workers inside the Green Line. By April 1995, Israel had imported over 60,000 foreign workers from Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe to do the jobs Palestinians once did, so that today there are no more than 28,000 Palestinians from the occupied territories employed inside Israel. The result is massive Palestinian unemployment, and a fall in annual income earned in Israel from \$920 million to \$400,000 in 1994.

Third, the official Palestinian trade union movement has been hindered by PLO factionalism. Prior to Oslo, there were no fewer than three "general" trade union federations operating in the territories: A Fateh-controlled union in Gaza and two in the West Bank, one a bloc made up of Fateh, Palestine People's Party and Popular Front unions and the other aligned with the Democratic Front. Riven by political disputes, the federations competed with each other for members, patronage and turf. The result was a spread of factional unions across the territories that was in inverse ratio to their influence among Palestinian workers. By 1993, there were 161 "political" unions in the West Bank and Gaza, but with a combined membership of no more than 6,000, most of whom were factionally affiliated.

Oslo appeared to instill a degree of realism on Palestinian unions, though without challenging their

factional bases. In October 1993, the three federations agreed to unify their ranks on condition that general elections, based on proportional representation, would be held for a new executive by February 1995. This has not happened. Neither elections nor the unification — says one trade union member in the Gaza federation — is "anywhere on the horizon". On the contrary — says Palestinian community activist, Mustafa Barghuthi — the period since Oslo has seen Palestinian trade unions "regress like never before." "The artificial unity" between factions "did not improve the unions' work," he says, "because none of the leaders were interested in their own union's constituency. In addition, appointment to offices within the union led to a lack of motivation in all types of work, creativity and competition."

Dispute over the Histadrut

These flaws were to prove fatal in what has been Palestinian trade unions' most important challenge since Oslo: Negotiations with the 1.5 million strong Israeli trade union federation, the Histadrut. Under the PLO-Israeli economic "protocol" signed in Paris in April 1994, 75 per cent of all Palestinians' tax and welfare deductions earned in Israel are to be disbursed to the PNA. Of these, one per cent is for union dues. But a dispute subsequently arose over when the deductions were to be backdated. The Palestinian unions held that payment was retrospective to October 1970 — the date when Israeli labour exchanges started to register and tax Palestinians from the territories who worked in Israel. Given that, in the 24 years since, around 700,000 Palestinians have worked legally in Israel, paid taxes to its government but received scant services for

them, the estimated amount owed by Israel to the PNA is between \$1.5 billion and \$3 billion. Of this, \$100 million is union dues.

But the Histadrut argued that the "back-date" should be the Oslo agreement (September 1993), since before that Israel was the de facto government in the territories and workers' deductions helped pay for the "services" it provided there. As for union dues, the Histadrut said that it would disburse \$1-\$1.7 million annually to the unified Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU) on condition that the latter enter an "agreement of cooperation" with it. This would oblige the GFTU to work with the Histadrut on an array of labour issues, including legal rights, training and social welfare. In the opinion of Israeli journalist Assaf Adiv, such an agreement would effectively transform the GFTU into a "department of the Histadrut." Both the Gaza and West Bank GFTU executives flatly rejected the deal — or at least they thought they did.

In August 1994, Mr. Arafat met Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz and suggested a compromise: Palestinian trade unions would receive \$1.7 million annually from the Histadrut and enter its "agreement" with the proviso that the back-date dispute would be "subject to future negotiations." Mr. Peretz agreed, and so did (but without consulting his executives) the GFTU's general secretary, Shahar Said.

When the GFTU executives got wind of the deal, they quickly moved to scupper it. They were led by a new factional player on the scene, Haidar Ibrahim, head of the PLO's formerly Tunis-based but now returned General Union of Palestinian Workers, which "represents" Palestinian workers in the diaspora.

"The Histadrut should know that the GFTU is an indivisible part of the Palestinian trade union movement, regardless of Histadrut attempts to interfere in our internal affairs. The Histadrut must pay the full rights of Palestinian workers since 1970," railed Mr. Ibrahim in December 1994.

The result was that the GFTU's agreement with the Histadrut was frozen almost as soon as it was signed, with Mr. Ibrahim and Mr. Shahar launching an "inside-outside" turf war for control of the GFTU. As for the fate of dues owed to Palestinian workers, this, too, is frozen. The GFTU-Histadrut joint committee set up to address the issue has not met for over six months.

Fight for a labour law

Such manoeuvrings suggest a future for Palestinian trade unions no less plagued by factionalism than its past, only now with the GFTU or its equivalent assuming the augmented role of "state" union for the PNA. If so — says the DWRC's director, Hassan Barghuthi — the challenge facing any potential Palestinian labour movement in the territories is clear. "Our fundamental role is to democratise the unions to put them on an independent footing," he says. "The current factional leadership will then face a choice: Either move aside or be held accountable to their membership by fighting on labour rather than narrowly factional issues." Is this happening? Mr. Barghuthi's answer is a qualified yes. He cites labour struggles that have occurred in the West Bank and Gaza since Oslo where Palestinian workers have formed their own workplace committees. "These are the nucleus of a new union movement," he says. "The committees deal directly with employers and

decide actions, without intervention from the factions." If this trend can be sustained, Mr. Barghuthi believes there are opportunities for Palestinian trade unions in the autonomy, even in the fraught and unequal relations with the Histadrut. "An agreement with the Histadrut will force Palestinian trade unions to organise around trade union issues," he says. "Whatever the limitations of the Paris protocol, it permits recruitment. And if the GFTU doesn't fight to recruit workers in Israel and the territories, the Histadrut will."

But the cardinal challenge facing any emerging union movement in the autonomy is the staking out of its political independence vis-à-vis the PNA. The crucial issue here will be labour law. "We must fight for the implementation of laws that are consonant with all international Labour Organisation agreements," says Mr. Barghuthi. "At the very least, we must aim to harmonise our laws with those that obtain in Israel."

The labour laws that currently exist in the occupied territories are a mix of Egyptian (in Gaza) and Jordanian (in the West Bank) codes of antiquated origin. In the West Bank, it is legal for minors to work full shifts for six months without pay if their parents or guardians agree. It is unclear where the PNA stands on this, but says Mr. Barghuthi, the signs so far are not encouraging. "In the PNA's draft Basic Law, it states that workers can be paid in wages or in goods. This is in contravention of every international labour law. So in whose interest is this clause? Clearly, it is the old Palestinian land-owning class, who still use payment in kind for their workers."

It is a class that is disproportionately represented in the PNA's current ruling elite, with, according to Mr. Barghuthi, "more than 50 per cent of Arafat's

appointed ministers being either landowners or major employers" from the West Bank and Gaza. Others — such as Planning and Development Minister Nabil Shaath, and Economics Minister Ahmad Qureia — are businessmen from the old Tunis bureaucracy whose economics are "neoliberal" and whose politics anti-labour. There are no genuine representatives of labour among the PNA's 22 ministers, says Mr. Barghuthi. Nor are there likely to be. "Arafat and the PNA are banking on the support of Palestine's bourgeoisie both for investments in the autonomy and for donations to the PNA. This class cannot be alienated."

Given the economic futures envisaged by both Israel and the PNA, Palestinian workers are likely to pay a very high price for autonomy. By the same token, they have the greatest interest in resisting it. Yet, says Mr. Barghuthi, this resistance cannot be channelled along "classic class-struggle forms." Rather, Palestinian trade unions must become a leading force in any broad democratic movement that fights for rights, law and social justice in Palestinian civil society. "Palestinian trade unions cannot be simply self-interested or oppositional in their attitude to the PNA," he says. "In the interim period, our struggle is not going to be confined to economic issues: It will also include law, democracy, human rights, social provision and education — in short, development. The next stage requires a new kind of struggle in which workers take the main responsibility for the welfare of the Palestinian nation."

The precondition for such a role is a genuinely mass-based, democratic and independent trade union movement; the alternative is industrial zones.

Middle East International

Regent urges new role

(Continued from page 1)

the protection of the environment. The Regent also underlined the importance of coordination between the Armed Forces and the Ministry of Public Works and Housing as well as the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and other institutions in a drive to meet the requirements of a safe environment and in building the infrastructure for the country's projects where ever they are needed.

The Regent, who was welcomed upon arrival by senior army officers, toured the new premises and was briefed on the general plans for its construction as well as the role of the Royal Engineering Corps in building the facility.

The Regent was accompanied on the visit by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Rashed Ben Al Hassan, Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid and Prince Firas Ben Ra'd as well as the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, General Abdul Hafez Mirai.

Kabariti planning Saudi visit

(Continued from page 1)

Jordan sent a new ambassador to Riyadh, Hani Khalifeh, early this year after the Saudi government accepted his nomination. Officials here say Amman is expecting Saudi Arabia to send an ambassador to Jordan soon to fill the vacant post since 1991.

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who is expected here by end of this week or early next week, told reporters in Sanaa last month that he was told, during a visit to Saudi Arabia in mid-June, that Riyadh wanted to improve its relations with Jordan after a Saudi-Yemeni reconciliation process was completed.

There have been recent signs that Saudi Arabia was amenable to full reconciliation with Jordan. The Saudi authorities have lifted a ban

on visas for family members to join Jordanian expatriates working in Saudi Arabia and have also eased restrictions on visas being issued to drivers of Jordanian trucks for transit through Saudi Arabia to other Gulf states.

Mr. Kabariti, a member of Parliament who took office as foreign minister in January, has already visited the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain, which along with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

In informal comments, Mr. Kabariti has spoken of strong and positive signs of improvement in Jordan's relations with all the GCC countries. Former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali visited Saudi Arabia recently. That visit is also seen to have helped the reconciliation process.

Turkish assault continues

(Continued from page 1)

rule based in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir said troops held control of the northern Iraqi regions of Kani Masi, Mergasor and Barzan.

Iraqi Kurdish sources in the region said 15 villages had been evacuated and were controlled by Turkish troops. The Turkish drive, now in its fifth day, initially had air cover but the security officials said no air operations were launched on Sunday.

Turkey's push into northern Iraq followed a six-week campaign against PKK bases in the region starting on March 20.

PKK sources in southeast Turkey said they had lost

only three men. They said Turkish losses were much higher than the six reported by officials, but gave no figure.

The PKK has fought for a separate Kurdish state in the region since 1984. More than 17,000 people have died in the insurgency.

Northern Iraq has been under the control of Iraqi Kurds since 1991 in defiance of Baghdad.

In another development, the KDP accused its rival Kurdish faction in northern Iraq, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), of violating a ceasefire agreement Sunday.

Israel, PLO race to meet deadline

(Continued from page 1)

The sides have agreed to a staged release of Palestinian prisoners, but not the numbers. Some 5,500 Palestinians are in Israeli jails.

Palestinian prisoners ended a 19-day hunger strike after an announcement the deal extending self-rule

would include a staged prisoner release, a PLO spokesman said on Sunday.

Violence erupted in the West Bank briefly on Sunday when 50 Palestinian demonstrators tried to stop Israeli army bulldozers from clearing land for a joint Israeli-PLO liaison office near

Kabatayeh. Witnesses said troops dragged a protester from his car. A scuffle broke out. One soldier was hit on the head with a rock and taken to hospital. Protesters complained they were not consulted about the six acres being confiscated.

'Iraqis should not be ignored'

(Continued from page 1)

played a role in this arena and continue to do so. We were represented in Madrid but we were not one of the Arab countries that led the way in making the peace with Israel.

"After the Madrid conference, it is incumbent on us to back the peace process... When we saw that the Palestinian people who are the people concerned first and foremost, were the first to bless that step, it was necessary for us to take that decision," Sheikh Hamad said.

Turning to relations with the rest of the world, Sheikh Hamad said: "I believe that the policy which was adopted by us, here in Qatar more than four or five years ago proves that we open our hearts to any good bilateral international relations with any other country and we welcome this. There is no change in this position."

Sheikh Hamad declined to explain why he overthrew his father Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani. "As you know this is an internal affair and I have no wish to discuss it," he said, adding: "My father is very dear to me and he will always remain so as he is dear to the Qatari people."

On economic policy, Sheikh Hamad said: "At present we are focusing mainly on developing heavy industries directly related to Qatar's plentiful reserves of natural gas and this is surely the future for Qatar. The plan itself is ready, all we have to do is carry it out."

Washington is building a base near the oil town of Ouhkan on Qatar's western shore, about 85 kilometres from Doha.

Israeli shells kill 2 girls

(Continued from page 1)

months, preventing impoverished fishermen from sailing more than one kilometre offshore.

Police said four dart shells exploded on and around the home of Ali Bader in the town of Nabatiyet Al Fawqa late on Saturday, killed his daughters Jihan and Silvana aged 16 and 11.

Their five-year-old brother Zacharia was in critical condition with nails in his head. Another brother Abbas,

aged 10, a 15-year-old sister named Rabab and 10-year-old cousin Ali Hikmat Abbas were all slightly injured, police said.

Film shot by a Reuters Television cameraman showed dozens of steel darts stuck into the walls of the house.

The shells were fired from the Israeli fortified post of Ali Taher on a hill top above the town, a suburb of the market town of Nabatiyet.

Serbs hold 20 Dutch soldiers in new twist

(Continued from page 1)

by Bosnian Serb forces was said to be "very tense" following the further advances by the Serbs.

The men's detention comes only weeks after nearly 400 peacekeepers were released from captivity after the Bosnian Serbs took them hostage in retaliation for North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) airstrikes on a Serb weapons depot in May.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, saying the peacekeeping mission was at a turning point, told his top aides on Saturday in Geneva to lobby the warring parties to agree peace or be ready to pull out U.N. troops.

Bosnian government troops defending the Srebrenica enclave tried to prevent Dutch peacekeepers from fleeing and killed one of the U.N. soldiers in a grenade attack at a roadblock, U.N. spokesman Ettashany said in Zagreb.

Fierce fighting has raged since Thursday in the Srebrenica pocket with the Serbs apparently intent on capturing high ground to the south-

east controlling important supply routes.

Bosnian state radio said 4,000 people had fled the fighting in the enclave. The Muslim-led government called for an emergency meeting of the Security Council over Srebrenica.

U.N. commanders asked NATO warplanes to fly over the enclave on Sunday for the second successive day in an attempt to calm the situation but later withdrew the aircraft.

Since NATO jets struck Bosnian Serb positions near Sarajevo in May and a U.S. F-16 was shot down by a Serb missile, the U.N. has been reluctant to call in allied aircraft, fearing even their presence would inflame the situation on the ground.

U.N. officials said they could do little to halt the Serb advance in Srebrenica but said fighting on the edge of the pocket need not be seen as an attempt to seize the enclave.

The boundaries of the U.N.-declared "safe area" around Srebrenica have never been clearly defined.

Independent working group on the future of the U.N. maps out reforms

NEW YORK — Calling for nations to rethink their cooperative efforts to deal with new challenges to global security and economic and social development in a "vastly altered world," an independent 12-member international group, has released a report recommending significant reforms for the United Nations as it prepares to mark its first 50 years. The work of the independent group, co-chaired by Richard von Weizsäcker, former president of Germany, and Moeen Qureshi, former prime minister of Pakistan, was funded by a Ford Foundation grant in response to a request by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and supported by Yale University's Program in United Nations Studies.

The Foundation has a long history of grant making aimed at strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to secure peace and promote social and economic progress," said Franklin A. Thomas, president of the Ford Foundation. "It is our hope that this report will be an important catalyst as U.N. leaders and member states prepare to meet the challenge of the future."

The United Nations in its Second Half-Century predicts that by the mid-21st century, the nature of statehood and national sovereignty will have evolved dramatically in response to major political, social, economic, and demographic changes. For example, the report notes, since 1945 more than 100 states have come into being and the world's population has increased from 2.5 billion to 5.7 billion. Now, with the end of the cold war, civic, ethnic, and territorial disputes have altered the nature of threats to security. Remarkably that no state by itself will be able to provide broad security for its people, the report

says. "Even the wealthiest and most powerful need to share the burden of common security and the responsibilities of bequeathing a better — even a tolerable — future to the next generations."

Originally established to prevent "the scourge of war," the report notes that the United Nations is increasingly expected to function as the "public service sector" of the world community, but it is not given resources adequate to do so. The report states that in virtually all of the U.N.'s activities, from peacekeeping to development, from human rights to environment, the U.N. must enhance its capacity to advance international cooperation.

At the core of the report's proposals is the creation of three independent but related councils, each of which would perform as a principal U.N. organ. They are a new Economic Council, a new Social Council, and an enhanced Security Council. Membership in each would be adjusted to reflect the "principles of participation and equity in a universal organisation." The General Assembly would remain the principal body in which all U.N. members vote on an equal basis. Among the report's proposals are:

An Economic Council that would formulate guidelines to coordinate the work of all U.N. agencies and international institutions engaged in such issues as fiscal, monetary, and trade policies; the environment; and development. And advisory council would assist the Economic Council in promoting cooperation among member states as well as with the private sector.

A Social Council that would integrate all U.N. activities related to social development as well as urgent matters of human rights, humanitarian affairs,

and efforts to rebuild societies in distress.

The Economic and Social Councils should then form a Global Alliance for Sustainable Development. It would meet annually at the highest levels of government to set objectives on major issues of economic and social concern and to mobilise the full machinery of the U.N. system in implementing programmes of action.

To ensure greater legitimacy and effectiveness, Security Council membership should be increased from 15 to approximately 23 members to be selected for their representativeness and their willingness to contribute to U.N. peacekeeping and enforcement operations.

The U.N.'s peacekeeping, peace-enforcement and peace-building operations should be clearly distinguished and each mandate made explicit; a rapid-reaction capability should be developed.

To veto power should be applicable only to peacekeeping and enforcement measures.

New sources of public funding, through taxes and fees derived from use of the global commons, should be explored to ensure adequate resources.

The report stresses that such reforms will require "the highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity" in an international civil service that respects diversity and gender equity. It emphasises that success will also depend on strong and assertive leadership at the highest levels, both national and international, adding that the Secretary-General "must provide the moral authority, intellectual stimulus, and the organisational skill to sustain the credibility and effectiveness of the world organisation."

The Ford Foundation

business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Jordan develops 'Beetle' cars

The Armed Forces Royal Maintenance Corps managed to develop the two-door German Volkswagen car, by adding two more doors to it after increasing its length by 30 centimetres, thus making it convenient for small-size families.

The developed "Beetle car," tested by all the concerned authorities, including the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Traffic Department, has proved to be very efficient and practical. Brigadier Yazan Ajlouni, the commander of the force's Amman Central Workshops, said the idea of developing the car was the brainchild of retired Lieutenant-Colonel Musa Mahmoud who exerted strenuous efforts along with his colleagues in the force to accomplish this achievement. He said the car was presented to His Majesty King Hussein as a gift on his birthday Nov. 14, 1994. The King then conferred Royal medals upon those involved in the project. Brig. Ajlouni said the force has also succeeded in rebuilding 140 two-door out-of-service Volkswagen cars which saved the force about JD 250,000. He said the force was currently holding contacts with the Volkswagen manufacturing company in Germany to register the new invention with them. He added that the force's workshops intend to establish spare parts factories in Jordan to save the Kingdom badly-needed hard currency spent on buying them from abroad (Al Ra'i).

The drop in international coffee prices will not be felt in Jordan for two months, coffee traders said. The traders noted that coffee in the Jordanian market will continue to be sold at the old prices until the market starts receiving new shipments of coffee at the new prices. One of the traders said no new shipments of coffee are expected in the Kingdom before two months. The trader said the quantities available currently in the market were purchased at the previous high prices and accordingly were cleared through customs at those prices. The Ministry of Supply, which controls prices in the Kingdom, does not interfere in coffee prices. Importing and distributing the commodity in the local market, which consumes some 9,000 tonnes of coffee annually, is monopolised by four merchants (Al Ra'i).

Jordan welcomes hosting a conference of Asian ministers of commerce and industry in Amman in the period January 7-12, 1996, Jordan's envoy to the Geneva headquarters of the U.N. Fawwaz Sharaf said in an address (Al Dustour).

Jordan won the first prize in the Arab Ceramic Industries Conference which concluded recently in Tunisia for its contributions to the success of the conference (Al Ra'i).

Gas project steers Qatar to dominance

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Qatar, a minor OPEC member, is set to become a dominant force in the global energy market as it presses ahead with the world's largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) project, experts say.

Sitting on the third biggest natural gas reserves in the world, the tiny Gulf oil producer expects to become the top LNG supplier when the giant North Field project is commissioned in a few years.

Japan, South Korea and several other Asian countries will be heavily reliant on its LNG under long-term supply deals, as the continent is set to become one of the biggest gas consumers in the world after the year 2000.

Qatar's new ruler, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, who overthrew his father in a bloodless palace coup last week, is expected to push ahead with the two-phase venture and spur fresh investment in the world's largest gas reservoir.

"From the way he has run Qatar in the past two years, one can see the economy is one of Sheikh Hamad's priorities," an oil-industry official in Doha said.

"He will probably open

the door for more investment in gas as this will expand the country's industrial base and diversify its economy."

The North Field project, part of which has been launched, will eventually produce around 16 million tonnes of LNG, according to the government, exceeding the 13.8 million tonnes produced by the world's current top LNG exporter, Indonesia.

Investments in the scheme are expected to total more than \$10 billion, provided by the Qatari government and several foreign partners, including U.S.-based Mobil and Total of France.

The North Field venture will tap the emirate's huge natural gas reserves, officially estimated at 7.079 trillion cubic metres (235.9 trillion cubic feet). They are third in reserves in Russia and Iran.

"There is no doubt the project will transform Qatar from a negligible oil producer into a dominant force in the world's energy market, given the growing significance of gas as a cleaner source of energy," an oil executive said.

Qatar is the second-smallest oil producer in the

12-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), with an output quota of 378,000 barrels per day (bpd). Gabon, which has threatened to pull out, has a quota of 287,000 bpd.

Experts said Qatar's massive gas reserves would also enable it to expand its petrochemical industry and secure further funds to finance development.

They noted that at the production rate expected from the North Field venture, its gas reserves could last more than 360 years. This is in contrast with its small crude reserves, estimated at around four billion barrels.

The amount of income the North Field project will fetch Qatar is unclear, but experts said this depended on the supply contracts with buyers.

However, they added the earnings would be sizeable given the large production and the growing consumption of gas in Asia and other areas.

Independent estimates showed world gas demand is growing faster than that of oil as several countries are switching to gas due to increasing environmental con-

cerns. A breakdown showed that while oil demand is projected to increase by around 62 per cent to 91 million bpd in the year 2020 from 56 million bpd in 1990, gas consumption is forecast to more than double to 71 million equivalent bpd from 34 million equivalent bpd.

Gas demand could reach around 73 million equivalent bpd with higher economic growth.

Qatar also plans to supply its oil-rich Gulf neighbours with its natural gas through an ambitious pipeline project, and has announced its willingness to sell gas to Israel.

"Qatar, as an oil country like its neighbours, will be much different," Ihsan Abu Huleika, an expert at the Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultancy, wrote Saturday in the United Arab Emirates daily Al Khaleej.

"It will see a second economic boom as its gas is important not only for its coffers but for Japan, South Korea, India and many others. Gas earnings will also enable it to launch fresh steps to diversify its economy."

Arabs need \$20 billion for refining expansion

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states need to invest nearly \$20 billion to upgrade their petroleum products and boost refining production capacity to meet growing world demand, an official report said on Saturday.

Current Arab refining output capacity is estimated at around 285 million tonnes per year (5.7 million barrels per day) and the level will rise to around 300 million tonnes (six million b/d) in the year 2000, said the report by the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

"Upgrading and expansion of Arab refineries require investment of around 20 billion until the year 2010 in circumstances where the profit margin is receding," the Kuwait-based group said in its July bulletin, obtained here.

"Arab states should continue projects to modernise their refineries and improve their efficiency in response to expected changes in world demand for refined products and in line with environmental legislation."

The study said expansions would create a surplus in the local market in most refined products except gasoline, kerosene and jet fuel.

It gave no breakdown for refining output but around one third is produced in Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter. Other key refining producers are Kuwait, Algeria and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Early this year, the UAE approved a 1.5-billion-dollar project to double its Ruwais refinery to around 280,000 b/d after expanding the capacity of Umm Nar refinery to more than 70,000 b/d at a cost of \$80 million.

"Arab nations should boost coordination in the refining industry to maintain the advanced position of their products in the market," OAPEC said.

OAPEC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Iraq, UAE, Egypt, Syria, Algeria and Libya. It controls more than 60 per cent of the world's oil and 20 per cent of the global gas reserves.

The UAE currently produces nearly 250 million gallons of water (900 million litres) per day and the level will sharply rise when a multi-billion-dollar hydro-electric project at Al Tawila in Abu Dhabi is completed in 2000. It will produce around 100 million gallons (380 million litres) per day.

Water consumption in the emirates is increasing by around 10 per cent a year because of a steady growth in the population and industrial and agricultural expansion.

Mr. Shamsi told another newspaper, Al Itihad, that a project to link power networks in the UAE's seven emirates would be completed in 1998. He gave no details but official estimates have put costs at 750 million dirhams (\$204.3 million).

Mr. Wolfensohn arrived in Saudi Arabia on Friday on a Middle East tour expected to include talks on how the bank could play a role in economic development of the former Israeli-occupied territories.

Mr. Wolfensohn told reporters in Norway on Friday that he was visiting the Middle East to "ensure that we can play a full role in the economic development of Gaza and the West Bank."

The bank has taken a leading role in coordinating international help for Gaza and the West Bank to help promote peace in the region.

Mr. Wolfensohn, due to meet PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli officials, took over as World Bank head on June 1.

Iran parliament to probe central bank activities

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian parliament is to launch a probe into the central bank's activities over the past five years, in the first such inquiry since the 1979 Islamic revolution, assembly sources said Sunday.

The investigation will date back to the tenure of former central bank governor Mohammad Hussein Adeli, who was replaced in September by Mohsen Nurbakhsh, they said.

The bank has been widely blamed for the country's economic crisis, notably for the sharp rise in Iran's foreign debt — estimated at around

\$35 billion. The authorities were forced in May to freeze the dollar rate in a bid to stabilise the national currency and curb soaring inflation.

The decision came amid the rising public distrust of financial authorities over a \$200 million embezzlement at a state bank in Iran.

The brother of a top official has been arrested over his role in the scam, which took place in 1992.

The central bank and the economic ministry have been criticised for failing to take appropriate measures to prevent such frauds.

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JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	17750	82488	4.630	4.670
HIDDA EAST INVESTMENT BANK	1600	2152	1.370	1.340
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1041	2663	2.570	2.560
THE HOUSING BANK	6950	55762	8.150	8.120
JORDAN KOWAT BANK	2143	6061	2.850	2.830
JORDAN GULF BANK	800	1026	1.280	1.300
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	7500	23275	3.090	3.000
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	2251	8426	3.740	3.750
BUSINESS BANK	650	2503	3.900	3.850
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	2019	8478	4.200	4.200
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	850	5237	3.850	3.810
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	9180	10342	1.130	1.130
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	500	2650	5.350	5.300
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	75016	117530	1.580	1.590
BANKS SECTOR	128600	430720	INDEX NUMBER: 180.68	CHANGE: +0.02
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	600	1590	2.650	2.650
HOLY LAND INSURANCE	500	1485	2.930	2.970
INSURANCE SECTOR	1100	3075	INDEX NUMBER: 135.63	CHANGE: +0.007
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	16072	27198	1.700	1.690
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	6250	17518	2.800	2.830
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1462	3350	2.320	2.390
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	1400	1763	1.250	1.230
ARAB TRADER FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	3050	10101	3.320	3.310
SERVICES SECTOR	28234	59909	INDEX NUMBER: 132.32	CHANGE: -0.147
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	20	551	26.250	27.560
ATZANSEP CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	300	372	1.240	1.240
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	9547	38904	3.780	3.770
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	1700	5191	3.030	3.050
THE ARAB POTASH	450	2318	5.110	5.150
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	75	773	10.320	10.300
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	154	516	3.390	3.380
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	4936	24366	4.960	4.930
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	2000	12000	6.000	6.000
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	450	1274	2.830	2.810
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	364	1383	3.800	3.800
THE PUBLIC MOBILE	450	1431	3.200	3.180
SPINNING & WEAVING	9523	9523	2.070	2.050
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	24180	193206	8.000	7.950
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UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	39250	125600	3.210	3.200
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	6300	13574	2.170	2.160
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	3750	7177	1.930	1.910
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	144083	483441	INDEX NUMBER: 131.15	CHANGE: -0.107
GRAND TOTAL	302017	977145	INDEX NUMBER: 156.21	CHANGE: -0.037
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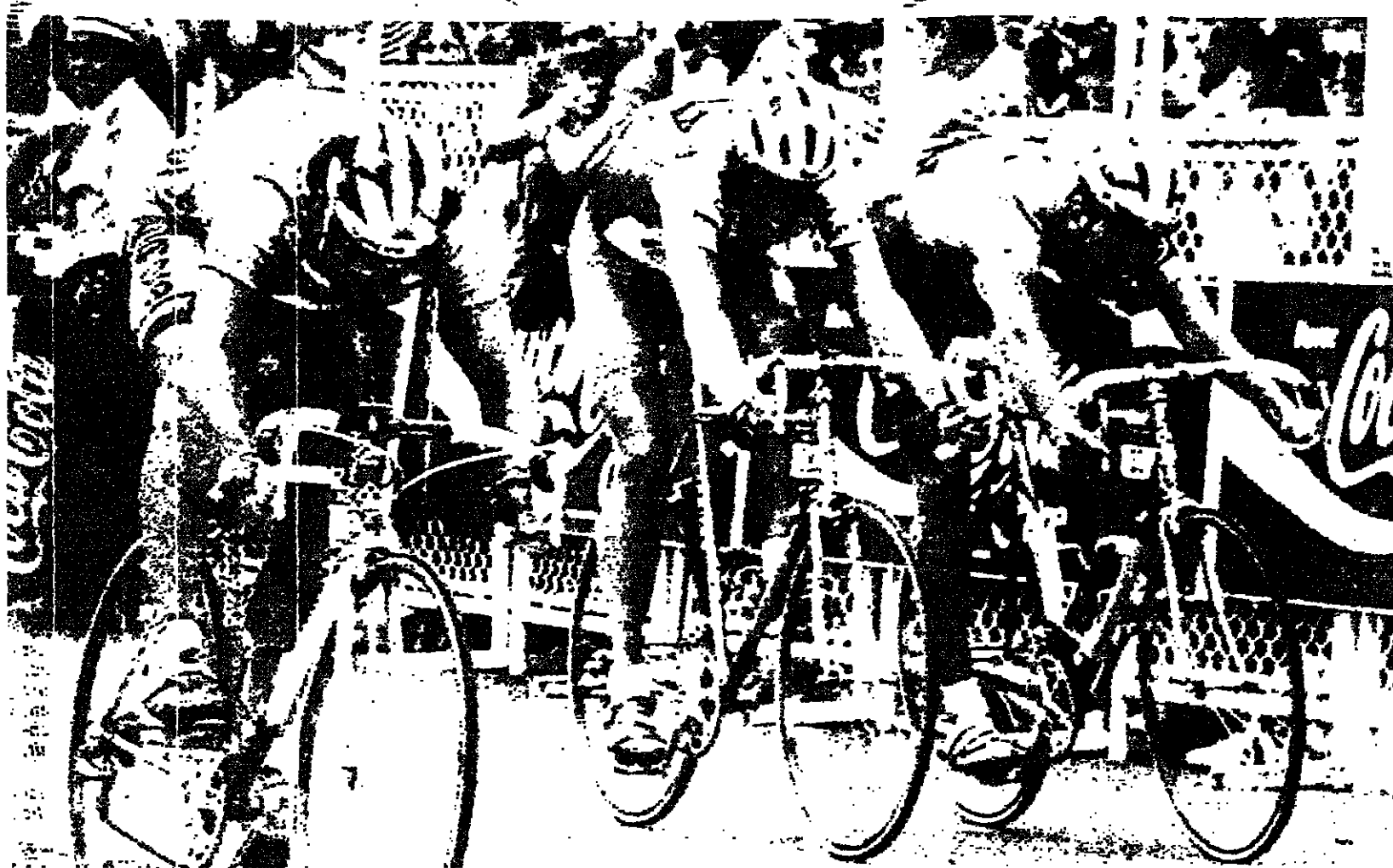
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Uzbek Djamoline Abdoujaparov (left) sprints his way down a stage in the Tour de France (AFP photo)

Indurain makes major move

LIEGE, Belgium (R) — Mighty Miguel Indurain, who struck a major blow to his main Tour de France rivals with a powerful display in Saturday's seventh stage, said he was looking forward to the individual time trial which could see him stamp his authority on the world's greatest cycle race.

"It's a course tailored to my measurements and there will be huge gaps," warned Spaniard Indurain ahead of the 54-km race against the clock from Huy to Seraing in Belgium.

Indurain has few rivals in an exercise he has used in the last four years to pave the way for as many tour victories and the kind of form he showed on Saturday indicated he would be hard to beat.

Second place in the stage behind new leader Johan Bruyneel of Belgium allowed Indurain to move eight places overall up to second and to gain 50 seconds or more on his most dangerous opponents.

Indurain broke away with Bruyneel after the last climb of the day's bumpy, 203-km ride from Charleroi and the two men left the Peloton

helpless as they rushed to Liege, where Bruyneel produced his effort in the last metres of the final straight to treat the home crowd with a stage win.

"It was like being behind a motorcycle for 20 kilometres," said an impressed Bruyneel, who took over the coveted yellow jersey from Dane Bjarne Riis.

"I couldn't move in front but anyway, if I had, it would have slowed us down."

Tony Rominger of Switzerland, widely regarded as the man most capable of depriving Indurain of a fifth consecutive triumph in Paris, said he had been surprised by the Spaniard's attack.

"In the morning, I had seen him at the back of the Peloton and I thought he wasn't too well so I certainly didn't expect him to do something like that," said the world tour record holder. "I would've done exactly the same if I'd had his legs but I didn't."

Indurain not only silenced those who blame him for his lack of panache but he once again proved he was a fine tactician by attacking as soon as his rivals, too busy thinking about intermediate

sprints, forgot to keep an eye on him.

"The first half of the stage, which was the easiest, was eventful because all the teams were fighting for intermediate sprints and lost a lot of energy that way," he said.

"Then, in the second part, we (the Banesto Team) were able to control the race. After attacking, I looked behind me and I saw there was no body there. So I thought it was a perfect opportunity to hurt the morale of my rivals."

Many thought Indurain would stay comfortably within the pack until the time trial but by deciding to shine a day earlier, the Spaniard managed to score precious points even before demonstrating

his prowess against the clock.

He will set off from Huy with an advantage of 11 seconds on Frenchman Laurent Jalabert, 33 on Swiss Alex Zülle, 42 on Rominger and one minute 34 seconds on Russian Yevgeny Berzin.

All these men have no other choice than to give

their all if there do not want to see Indurain's hunt for a fifth title become merely a formality. But according to Bruyneel, there will find it hard to contest Indurain's supremacy.

"I saw him closely and I can tell you that he is very, very strong," he said.

Points standings (green jersey)

1. Laurent Jalabert (Fra)	155	Pts
2. Djamolidin Abdoujaparov (Uzb)	151	
3. Mario Cipollini (Ita)	108	
4. Erik Zabel (Ger)	98	
5. Giovanni Lombardi (Ita)	94	
6. Jan Svoboda (Svk)	80	
7. Frederic Moncassin (Fra)	74	
8. Bjarne Riis (Den)	71	
9. Miguel Indurain (Spa)	68	
10. Bruno Thibout (Fra)	68	

Brazil continues winning streak in volleyball

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Defending champion Brazil overpowered Spain 15-4, 15-5, 15-1 Sunday, moving within one victory of reaching the quarterfinals of the 8th men's junior world volleyball championship.

The Brazilians will enter the last eight if they beat South Korea Monday in Group C. They beat Puerto Rico 15-2, 15-2, 15-8 on Saturday.

In Group A, Finland and Poland both won their second match. Finland downed Malaysia 15-6, 15-4, 15-5 after beating China 15-13, 15-13, 15-9 Saturday. Poland beat China 15-10, 15-4, 15-7 Sunday after defeating Malaysia 15-10, 15-3, 15-0 Saturday.

Monday's Poland-Finland match will decide who will go to the quarterfinals.

In Group B, 1993 runners-up Italy was at 2-0 after beating Greece 10-15,

15-11, 15-9, 15-12 Sunday. It won Saturday by default over Cuba, which did not turn up.

Italy's last group match will be against Venezuela on Monday.

Also at 2-0 were Russia and the Netherlands. The Russians beat India 15-11, 11-15, 15-11, 15-9 Sunday after downing Algeria 15-8, 15-8, 15-3 Saturday. The Dutch beat Algeria 15-13, 15-2, 15-7 Sunday.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

2nd Special Olympian missing

NEW HAVEN (AFP) — a second participant in the 1995 Special Olympics World has gone missing, and authorities said Saturday he may be seeking asylum in the United States. Juan Carlos Balbuena, 20, of the Dominican Republic, disappeared from the Yale University stadium early Friday and has not been seen since then, said David Phelps, a spokesman for Special Olympics International. "We have reason to believe that this is an immigration-related matter. He may be trying to enter the country illegally or seek asylum," Phelps said without elaborating. Phelps said the organizers of the games are concerned about the missing man, but they did not believe he is in grave danger. Balbuena, who is a basketball player, was staying with his colleagues at a college in a nearby suburb of New Haven. Meanwhile, divers had searched the waters near Madison for a member of the Nepal football team at the Special Olympics who is believed to have drowned in his first experience in deep waters. Ramesh Mali, who never learned to swim, has been missing since Thursday. The U.S. Coast Guard suspended its search for him Friday, presuming him dead.

Coach Edmondo Fabbri dies

CASTEL SAN PIETRO, Italy (AP) — Edmondo Fabbri, who coached Italy's national soccer team in one of its lowest moments, has died, family members said Saturday. He was 73. Fabbri died late Friday in a hospital near Bologna. The hospital gave no cause of death, but family members said that recently Fabbri was unable to walk without pain. Fabbri coached the national squad in the 1966 World Cup in England, when Italy was ousted in the first round by a 1-0 loss to North Korea. The defeat devastated soccer-mad Italians and Fabbri was soon dismissed. He coached in the Italian League until the mid-1970s then held management posts on several teams.

Fasang new mini-flyweight champ

PATTHUM THANI, Thailand (AFP) — Thailand's Fasang Por Pongsawang defeated World Boxing Federation (WBF) mini-flyweight champion Ronnie Magrango of the Philippines by a unanimous points decision in this northern suburb of Bangkok on Saturday.

Schumacher brands Hill a loser

BONN (AFP) — Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher believes that British Damon Hill is suffering from a "loser's syndrome," according to a Sunday newspaper interview. Schumacher, who convincingly beat Hill in this month's French Grand Prix and leads him by 11 points in the championship, told Welt-am-Sonntag: "For me, he is suffering from some sort of loser's syndrome." The German further rubbished his Williams Renault rival by adding: "It's really fortunate that neither (Heinz Harald) Frentzen, nor (Mika) Hakkinen nor (Jean) Alesi are driving a Williams. "Otherwise, the 1995 season would be much more difficult for me." Williams Renault have won the last three world constructors titles, but Hill remains in Schumacher's shadow. As for his own future, Schumacher said: "For the moment, I'd like to stay with Benetton. I feel really good with them." But he added that his decision for 1996 would be based on the quality of the car on offer, not the size of the prize money. On a personal level, Schumacher said a major German newspaper had paid a large sum for the exclusive rights to his marriage ceremony in September. "If a newspaper makes money out of my marriage, there's no reason why I shouldn't get something too," said the world champion, adding that the money earned would be donated to UNICEF and other charitable agencies.

Recalde wins home rally

CORDOBA (R) — Jorge Recalde won a crushing victory on Saturday in his home round of the World Rally Championship, the Rally of Argentina, driving a Lancia. Easily South America's most successful rally driver, the 44-year-old led from start to finish, comfortably outpacing the similar car of Uruguayan Gustavo Trelles, who was hampered by a lack of power. "It's good for Argentina," a relaxed Recalde said with a smile. However, his second victory in his home rally will earn him no championship points, as this year's event counted only toward the two litre World Rally championship, which excludes four-wheel drive cars such as his Lancia. As a result, maximum points went to Czech driver Pavel Sibera, who took his 1500cc Skoda Felicia to a fine fourth place.

Seles ready for return

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Looking tanned and relaxed, Monica Seles said Saturday she is ready to return to tournament tennis, regardless of her ranking.

Seles spent the day at the Special Olympics World Games, presenting medals, conducting clinics and generally having a good time. And that, she said, is what her return after more than two years from the game is all about.

It took time, Seles said, a lot of time, to get over the emotional and physical trauma of being stabbed in the back during a changeover in a tournament at Hamburg, Germany on April 30, 1993. Perhaps the defining moment came recently in a conversation with her father, Karolj, who doubles as her coach. Seles said she had been dragging around at home, depressed and troubled.

"He said, 'nothing in the world is worth it to me to see you this way.' I decided then it was time to move on and forget what happened," Seles said. "You have to live life. It's time to have fun and play great tennis."

"I feel ready to play, physically and emotionally. She will do it, at the start at least, without benefit of a ranking, even though she was No. 1 when she was attacked. The WTA tour considered the idea of awarding her a co-No. 1 ranking with longtime rival Steffi Graf, then withdrew the offer. Seles said it made no difference to her.



Former world No. 1 Monica Seles bends low as she instructs special athlete Kim Mustano (right) during a clinic at the Special Olympics World Games in New Haven, Conn. (AFP photo)

"I never asked for any ranking," she said. "It doesn't matter. I'm going to play either way. I'll take wild cards (invitations to play). I just want to go back and have fun. If I'm good, I'll be there."

Seles said she did not watch Graf win her sixth Wimbledon championship earlier Saturday and that she had seen just bits and pieces of the tournament, busy with her own practice schedule.

"After you play or practice, you don't want to see or speak tennis," she said.

Seles is preparing for a July 29 exhibition against Martina Navratilova at the Atlantic City south of New York City, happy that the match won't carry with it the pressure of computer points. Next for her could be the U.S. Open at the end of August.

"I plan to play the Open," she said. "I want to play the Open. I believe I can do it."

Throughout her day at the Special Olympics — a quadrennial sports event for mostly mentally retarded athletes, Seles seemed happy and comfortable. Security was thick throughout and media were required — by Seles' people, the organizers said — to present two forms of identification for admission.

Seles was wearing a sleeveless blue tennis outfit and smiled broadly, responding to the crowd's enthusiastic welcome by clapping herself. "I was nervous at first because of the crowd and

the electricity," she said. "After 10 or 15 minutes I was comfortable and back to myself."

She congratulated all the winners, hugging one young man.

"They truly enjoy themselves," Seles said. "They love everything they do. Professional athletes can learn from them."

Later, during the clinic, she talked to a number of players. At one point, she accompanied 5-year-old Kim Fitzpatrick from the baseline to the net, encouraging her every step of the way until the youngest hit one over.

Seles giggled frequently, signed autographs for the kids on shirts, caps, scraps of paper, anything they came up with. "They kept saying 'welcome back, Monica. It's great to see you.' That meant so much. I had my doubts. They're so smart, so forthcoming. They taught me something."

Seles said she expects it will take time before she gets back on top of her game. "I will need time to get used to the matches and the setting," she said.

There was never a question about coming back, she said. It was just a matter of when it would happen. Asked if she thought her return would give a boost to the game, Seles smiled. "Women's tennis can survive without Monica Seles," she said. "And Monica Seles can survive without women's tennis. We're both better off with each other."

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Steffi Graf is protected by two policemen while leaving the Wimbledon Championships hours 4-6, 6-1, 7-5 (AFP photo)

Graf promises Wimbledon return

LONDON (R) — Steffi Graf sidestepped rumours she is contemplating retirement after the most exhausting Wimbledon final of her career against Arantxa Sanchez Vicario on Saturday.

Graf, who came into the tournament nursing back and wrist injuries, admitted the two-hour struggle to secure her sixth Wimbledon singles title had left her close to collapse in the final set.

But the 26-year-old German, choosing her words carefully, indicated she would return to defend her title at the All England Club next June.

"I do hope to be back next year. I really count on that," she said, dismissing reports her back condition was threatening to curtail her career.

"I'm been very exhausted the last few weeks and I intend to take some time off. Then I'm going to try and work more on my physical condition and build up to the U.S. Open."

Graf teased reporters after her semifinal win over Jana Novotna on Thursday, saying she would be announcing something significant in 10 days time.

She shed no further light on the matter on Saturday, but knows it would be the ultimate irony if she decided to call a halt just as Monica Seles is poised to return to the tournament scene after an absence of more than two years.

Since the infamous knife attack in Hamburg in April 1993, Graf has won six Grand Slam titles and now has a total of 17, one short of joining contemporary greats Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert on 18 major titles.

The latest triumph, though, was only settled deep into the third set after Sanchez Vicario had served with the score at 5-5.

Graf ultimately broke for 6-5, but only after 20 minutes of top-quality tennis which elevated the final to a position among the best "Never in my whole life have I played such a long game with so many high quality points," said Graf.

Steffi Graf profile

Steffi Graf was a four-year-old when she first picked up a tennis racket.

It was one of her father's and he sawed off part of the handle so that she could lift it.

From that moment Graf has never looked back.

She first hit major headlines in 1982, when, aged only 13, she won the German under-18 title and joined the professional ranks.

Her love of grass court tennis was clear from the moment she stepped out on court at the All England Club for the first time in 1984, and as she charged through to the fourth round, many observers were already being impressed by her tactical brain and powerful forehand.

Twelve months later she had broken into the top 10 and won eight titles — and in 1987 she dislodged Martina Navratilova from the top of the rankings.

She also beat the Czech-born American in the French Open final that year to win her first Grand Slam title.

The following year she made history with the first 'Golden' Grand Slam. She did this by adding the Olympic gold medal in Seoul to her victories at Melbourne, Paris, Wimbledon and Flushing Meadow.

It was the first time a player had won all four major events since Australian Margaret Court in 1970.

With age catching up with Navratilova and Chris Evert, Graf's dominance over the women's game seemed complete, and she led the rankings for a record 186 weeks before she was dethroned by Monica Seles.

Suddenly, the challenge was on.

Graf's only Grand Slam success in 1991 and 1992 came at Wimbledon. But in 1993 she re-asserted her authority in the perfect manner, bouncing back after losing to Seles in Australia to win the next three majors — although the absence of stab-victim Seles played its part.

Only one Grand Slam (Melbourne) came her way in 1994 when Heinz Gundhardt replaced Pavel Slozil as her coach — and she also crashed out of Wimbledon in the first round.

A chronic back injury meant she could not defend her Australian title at the start of this year but since returning to the tour in February, she has been unbeatable. She has now won 32 consecutive matches.

Steffi Graf's 17 Grand Slam victories:

- 1987 French Open
- 1988 Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, US Open
- 1989 Australian Open, Wimbledon, US Open
- 1990 Australian Open
- 1991 Wimbledon
- 1992 Wimbledon
- 1993 French Open, Wimbledon, U.S. Open
- 1994 Australian
- 1995 French Open, Wimbledon

Wimbledon Championships Sampras makes it three times in a row

LONDON (APP) — Pete Sampras won the Wimbledon singles title for the third consecutive year here on Sunday when he recovered after dropping the first set to beat three-times champion Boris Becker 6-7 (5/7), 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 in 2hrs 28 mins on a sun-baked centre-court.

Sampras, the world number-two, is the first player since the legendary Bjorn Borg to win the crown three years running, and his victory comes just one month after his shock first-round elimination from the French Open.

The 23-year-old American has now won six Grand Slam titles among his 34 tour successes. Apart from his three Wimbledon crowns he has also won the 1990 and 1993 U.S. Opens and the 1994 Australian Open.

Sunday's win ends a difficult twelve months for Sampras in which he has failed to retain his United States and Australian Open titles, lost his number-one world ranking to compatriot Andre Agassi, and undergone the trauma of seeing his coach Tim Gullikson taken ill with a brain tumour.

In Sunday's showdown Sampras served 23 aces to 16 by Becker. The German also double-faulted 15 times.

"He's been with me at this tournament I think for eight or nine years and he always yells out in a strange accent of English," Graf said.

"You can always hear him out of the crowd. He's been with me every year, semifinals, finals. I don't know how he makes it but he's always been there."

* Watch Sampras on TV? Noah way: When it comes to letting his 17-month-old son watch TV, Boris Becker exercises his own form of censorship.

"He's actually allowed to watch only his tennis matches," said the three-time Wimbledon champion, who faced Pete Sampras in the final. "Otherwise he's not allowed to watch TV at all."

Becker told the BBC: "And when Pete Sampras comes on, we turn it off."

Becker revealed that his son Noah already is showing an interest in the game.

"When I come home, he puts a tennis racket in his hands and wants to play me. I'm more a tennis player to him, apart from being a father. Hopefully he is aware that the tennis player is a father too."

* Sorry Stan, no kids: There's another shout of "out" at Wimbledon this



Pete Sampras

spend some of their time horseback riding.

* Screaming for ice cream: The hot, sunny days at Wimbledon meant that records were broken in the food halls as well as on court.

On Friday, June 30, the hottest day of the 1995 championships when temperatures reached (41.38 celsius) on Centre Court, almost 21,000 containers of ice cream were sold. That is the highest recorded sales of ice cream ever at Wimbledon.

The new offering of gin and tonic sorbet was also a hit — tennis fans consumed some 30,000 tubs of this frozen liquor dessert in the first five days of Wimbledon.

Pimms, the alcoholic drink long associated with this event, increased in sales during the first five days over last year. Over 40,000 half pints of Pimms were sold, almost 10,000 half pints more than 1994.

The traditional strawberries and cream continued to fare well, with around two tonnes of the fruit sold on a daily basis.

The British "fish and chips" has been replaced as a favourite snack by pizza. Sales of pizza slices were up almost 16 percent from 1994 to 12,500, while fish and

chips fell by 11 per cent to just 9,000.

* Finalists play longest ever women's game: Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario's astonishing marathon 32-point game during Saturday's final is believed to be the longest game in women's singles at Wimbledon since women started playing there in 1884.

Experts said the previous longest ran to 28 points in a 1982 tie-break in a first round match between British pair Virginia Wade and Jo Durie.

Both Graf, who finally won a scintillating match 4-6, 6-1, 7-5, and her Spanish opponent agreed it was the longest game they had ever played.

"It's never happened to me in my career," the German, veteran of 751 singles matches on the women's circuit, said.

"I was tired after that game. I was so tired," she added.

The game, with Sanchez Vicario serving, was the 11th in the final set. It lasted 20 minutes and included 13 deuces.

The Spaniard had eight game points and Graf six break points, the last of which she won to go 6-5 up in the final set.

Wimbledon notebook

* Steffi shares triumph with Egyptian fan: Steffi Graf celebrated her sixth Wimbledon triumph Saturday by running over to a fan who has supported her on centre court for eight years.

Graf shook his hand and the fan, an Egyptian who will only give his name as Ali, stood up, kissed and hugged her.

"I don't know his name," Graf said after her three-set victory over Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. "He just screams to me 'come on Steffi.' But he never mentions his name."

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	NORTH	AK	Q74
	32		
	Void	Q108532	
	AKJ53	AKQJ985	
WEST	EAST		

10 9 2

The bidding: South West North East 4 5 5 5 Pass Pass

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Since the spades divide evenly, West's five-heart overall could have been doubled for a 500-point penalty. However, we heartily endorse North's decision to raise to five spades.

West led the king of hearts, ruffed in dummy. Declarer looked no further than the club finesse for the contract. The king of clubs was cashed, trumps were drawn and the ten of clubs was run to East's queen. The defender then cashed a trick in each red suit—down one.

The club finesse was, at best a 50 percent chance. Since West was marked with long hearts and, therefore, probably fewer clubs than East, chances of this line succeeding were even better than the a priori odds would suggest.

Since declarer had no fast entry back to hand for another heart ruff,

one possibility was to duck a diamond. However, whichever defender won the diamond would surely return a trump and declarer would be back to relying on the club finesse.

The chances of clubs breaking 3-2 are slightly better than 2-to-1. That should be all anyone needs to know to select the superior line. After ruffing the heart at trick one, declarer should simply lead a low club from the table! The best the defender can do, as the cards lie, is cash a diamond. When declarer regains the lead, trumps are drawn and 11 tricks roll in.

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Damascus declaration slams Jewish settlements, backs Syria

MANAMA (AFP) — Syria, Egypt, and the six Arab Gulf states on Sunday called for a peace deal based on a total Israeli withdrawal from Syria's Golan Heights and denounced Jewish settlements on Palestinian land.

The eight countries, which signed the Damascus declaration aimed at boosting security and economic cooperation after the 1991 Gulf war to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, "renewed their support for Syria's just demands."

After a two-day meeting, they called for "a total withdrawal from the Golan beyond the June 4, 1967 (armistice) line," as demanded by Damascus. Israel occupied the Golan Heights

during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The eight countries also denounced Israel's "confiscation of land and expansion of settlements" on Palestinian territory as well as attempts to "change the topography" of Jerusalem.

They renewed their call for a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction and urged "Israel to join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty."

They also said Iraq "has not totally satisfied its obligations" to the United Nations imposed after a U.S.-led multinational coalition ejected Iraq from Kuwait.

They referred to its "refusal to free Kuwaiti prisoners"

seized during the seven-month occupation.

While expressing their "compassion for the suffering of the Iraqi people," these countries said "the Iraqi government bore responsibility for the suffering."

The eight said they were in "solidarity" with the United Arab Emirates in its conflict with Iran over the sovereignty of three islands in the Gulf: Abu Musa, Greater and Lesser Tunb.

They also called for a lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia, where the Muslim-led government is fighting off Bosnian-Serb advances.

They said they were "concerned" about the situation in Somalia and in Afghanistan, urging the factions in

both countries to reach an understanding.

The eight urged the Chechens and Russians to "settle their differences through dialogue."

They agreed to meet "before September 1995" to finalise a document on reinforcing their cooperation.

The Damascus declaration was signed in March 1991 calling for Egyptian and Syrian military aid to the Gulf states in return for \$10 billion in economic assistance.

The six Gulf states are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

The declaration has yet to be implemented, although its signatories meet regularly to discuss Arab problems.

Egypt reports it blocked subversive material for Sudan

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt said Sunday that it had foiled an attempt to smuggle bomb-making material through Cairo international airport to Egyptian extremists in Sudan.

Airport security officials also announced they had discovered undeclared telecommunications equipment in a Sudanese diplomat's shipment.

At the same time, Egypt began enforcing new regulations by turning away eight Sudanese who arrived at Cairo international airport without visas. Until Sunday, Sudanese had been welcome without permits in Egypt.

In Khartoum, Sudanese officials expressed regret over the visa situation but said they would not retaliate.

"The Sudan's doors will remain open to all Arabs without conditions," Sudanese government spokesman Abdul Basit Sabdarat said.

The Sudanese Foreign

Ministry, meanwhile, criticised what it termed "a series of escalations by the Egyptian regime against Sudan."

It accused Egypt of violating aviation agreements by cutting Sudan Airways flights to Egypt to two per week, banning all Sudanese cargo flights and barring Sudan's national carrier from flying its traditional Cairo-Rome route.

Egypt has long accused Sudan of harbouring extremists who have waged a three-year insurgency to try to overthrow Egypt's secular government and replace it with strict Islamic rule.

But tensions have been rising since gunmen on June 26 attempted to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak as he arrived in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa to attend an African summit.

Mr. Mubarak has accused the Islamic regime in Sudan of orchestrating the attack, and Foreign Minister Amr Musa has called for Sudan to

be isolated until it abandons policies that threaten neighbouring countries.

In the latest allegation against Sudan, Egyptian airport officials said they had stopped a shipment of bomb-making literature and equipment headed to Egyptian radicals in Sudan. The shipment also included fake Egyptian stamps and special ink used on official documents, they said.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the shipment came from a foreign country they would not name. They refused to disclose other details.

In a separate incident, airport security forces confiscated wireless telecommunications equipment being brought into Egypt by a diplomat assigned to the Sudanese embassy.

The officials said a diplomat had informed Egyptian officials he was bringing a television, a radio and a video recorder.

Queen Victoria may have been illegitimate

LONDON (AFP) — Queen Victoria who reigned from 1837 to 1901 may have been illegitimate and therefore not entitled to reign, according to two British researchers who have studied the sovereign's background.

The Sunday Times reported. Malcolm and William Potts, lecturers at Lancaster University in England and Berkeley (California) say none of Victoria's ancestors was affected by the haemophilia which the transmitted her children. The two, who studied the medical histories of eight generations of Victoria's ancestors, concluded that unless there had been a genetic mutation, the chances of which they put at "one in 50,000", Victoria must have been the result of an extra-marital affair by her mother. "In the end, it's a question we could not answer. But if I were in a court of law, I would say there's a reasonable chance Victoria was illegitimate."

DNA testing is the solution, Malcolm Potts told The Sunday Times. The Potts brothers said the theory of an extra-marital affair was plausible because at the time the three sons of George III who were all married were vying with each other to produce an heir. They said it was possible that Victoria's father the Duke of Kent, who was then over 50, may have encouraged his wife to take a lover in order to increase her chances of becoming pregnant.

Charles opposed ambassador role for Diana

LONDON (AFP) — Prince Charles "objected" to a plan two years ago to make his estranged wife Princess Diana an ambassador at large.

The Mail on Sunday newspaper reported. The weekly which quoted sources close to the Princess of Wales, said the government helped to draw up the "secret plan" by which Diana would have served British interests in a way more political than her present activities for charity.

The paper said the idea had been discussed at high-level meetings including a private session with Prime Minister John Major as well as with Home Secretary Michael Howard. "Key cabinet ministers argued that the princess was an invaluable national asset who could be used to great effect in the complicated ballet of international diplomacy," the report said.

Those in favour of the idea "believed the princess would create sunny skies while diplomats worked behind the scenes in problem areas abroad," the paper said. However the idea was dropped after being opposed by the palace.

"Prince Charles and his advisers objected strongly to the princess becoming an ambassador at large," The Mail on Sunday said. Prince Charles and Princess Diana separated in December 1992.

Tourism chief orders crackdown on sex tours

MANILA (AFP) — The Philippines government plans a crackdown on sex tour syndicates, news reports said Sunday as a senator filed a bill to strengthen legislation against child prostitution.

Eduardo Pilapil, the new tourism secretary, warned his office will cancel business permits for those involved in illegal sex tours. He called for close coordination between the Immigration Bureau, police and local officials.

Pilapil said legitimate tour operators should help in the campaign by reporting the syndicates and refusing to act as a front for groups who bring tourists mainly to satisfy their sexual pleasures.

"We will never allow these syndicates to thrive," newspapers quoted Pilapil as saying. He also noted that the Philippines "has plenty of attractions that would entice tourists to come in."

News reports this month exposed the existence of a syndicate bringing tourists to Angeles city north of Manila with the purpose of having sex with a stable of prostitutes there. Angeles had attracted off-duty servicemen of the former U.S. Clark Base and other visiting troops.

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Mujahedeen say Iran launched attack on Iraq base

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iran's Revolutionary Guards fired rockets at a camp of an Iranian exile group in Iraq but caused no damage or casualties, the Mujahedeen-Khalq organisation said on Sunday.

The Mujahedeen, which opposes the Tehran government, said Iranian guards had penetrated up to 90 kilometres into Iraqi territory and attacked the group's main camp, Al Ashraf, which is about 100 kilometres northwest of Baghdad.

"This morning at 4:15 a.m. the mullah's regime carried out an abortive ground attack on Ashraf camp," the group said in a statement handed to foreign reporters in Baghdad.

This latest attack is likely to further strain relations between Iraq and Iran who fought a ruinous war from 1980-88.

The official press on Sunday carried a message from Iraq's Foreign Ministry to the United Nations accusing Iran of violating a U.N.-brokered ceasefire halting hostilities in 1988.

The message said Iranian helicopter gunships violated Iraqi airspace and Tehran was fortifying border positions within "the security zone" between the two countries.

IAF accuses government of 'undemocratic' actions ahead of municipal polls

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) Sunday criticised what it described as the government's "continuous undemocratic practices" and vowed to take a strong action if such practices continue.

Hanzeh Mansour, the IAF spokesperson, told a press conference that the government's "recent practices" against Islamist candidates and supporters in Tuesday's municipal elections are "undemocratic" and said the front would take the "appropriate measures" in the future if such practices continue.

"Our supporters are receiving threats and our candidates are being harassed by policemen," said Mr. Mansour. "Our participation in the elections is going to be partial only to prove that we want to take part in the democratic process."

Mr. Mansour, a member of the Lower House of Parliament, said policemen had broken up several meetings held by Islamist candidates and ordered the dispersal of their supporters from the meeting place.

He cited an incident where he attended a campaign meeting of one of the front's candidates, Mohammad Banna. Policemen came in and ordered the crowd of 40 people to leave the house of Sheikh Fakhri

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"People are looking for a mayor who would work day and night in serving Irbid," said Mr. Dalqamouni, a civil engineer. Irbid citizens are also seeking good quality in services in return to the tax they pay, he said.

Addressing the concerns of many people in Irbid that successful candidates tend to forget what they promised people before elections, Mr. Dalqamouni said: "Hopefully we will ensure they will not be disappointed with us."

"We did not promise a lot but we will work to accomplish a lot, and the ultimate judge is the Irbid street," he added.

Irbid citizens also fear that tribalism might dominate the elections. According to a 50-year-old accountant, tribalism and parties will "unfortunately" overpower all other values.

"The elections in themselves reflect democracy. But in the past tribalism dominated the elections," he told the Jordan Times.

He said Irbid citizens were also "fed up" with the promises candidates deliver before they are elected and what they actually do after they take their seats.

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